



THE INTRUDER WAS ABRAHAM, A WIZARD.

HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, HE...



HE'S HUNDREDS OF YEARS OLD?!

TECHNICALLY. HE SLEPT IN STONE UNTIL "NEEDED" FOR MOST OF IT.

HE'S A GARGOYLE?!

NO.



HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, HE WANTED TO CURE A WEREWOLF OF THEIR WEREWOLFNESS, AND CREATED A MAGIC DIAMOND CALLED THE "DEWITCHERY DIAMOND".

THE DIAMOND DID CURE THE WEREWOLFNESS, BUT IT ALSO CREATED A DUPLICATE OF THE CURSED PERSON.

A WEREWOLF THAT WAS ALWAYS A WOLF, AND COULD STILL SPREAD THE CURSE.

WEREWOLVES ARE REAL?!

THEY WERE.



WOW. MAJOR FAIL.

INDEED. THE WOLF KILLED SEVERAL PEOPLE.

INCLUDING, I BELIEVE, YOUR GRANDFATHER.

WHAT?



OR IT WAS A DIFFERENT WEREWOLF.

I WAS NOT GIVEN DETAILS. I ONLY LISTENED IN ON AN ARGUMENT BETWEEN PANDORA AND DAD.

BUT I SUSPECT IT WAS THAT WEREWOLF.

SO... ABRAHAM *MIGHT* HAVE GOTTEN RAVEN'S DAD KILLED? THEN HUNDREDS OF YEARS LATER, HE SHOWS UP AT THE SCHOOL... AND THEY FIGHT?

EXACTLY
HOW OLD IS RAVEN?

VERY.

THAT
IS NOT A
NUMBER!

I DO NOT
HAVE A
NUMBER TO
SHARE.

RIGHT. SORRY. UM...

THERE *WERE*
WEREWOLVES?

A WERE-
WOLF KILLED
PANDORA'S
HUSBAND,
SO...

WEREWOLVES
ARE PAST
TENSE, YES.

GIVEN THE LIMITS
IMMORTALS IMPOSE ON
THEMSELVES, I ASSUME
SHE EMPOWERED AND
GUIDED COMMUNITIES TO
LOCATE, AND KILL, EVERY
LAST WEREWOLF.

WAS THAT... WRONG?

YOU SAID PEOPLE WERE
CURSED, AND SOMEONE
WANTED A CURE, BUT...

DAD WAS
CRITICAL
OF IT. HE
WANTED HER
TO FIND A
CURE...

BUT I HAVE NO IDEA
HOW SHE COULD HAVE
DONE THAT. BOTH IN
GENERAL, AND WITH
THE LIMITATIONS SET
BY IMMORTAL LAW.

I HAVE LOOKED
INTO THE OLD
WEREWOLVES, AND
THE THREAT THE
CURSE POSED IF
LEFT UNCHECKED.

IT HAD THE POTENTIAL TO
BE LIKE A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE,
BUT WITH WEREWOLVES.

WHATEVER
HER INTENT,
PANDORA
MIGHT HAVE
SAVED THE
WORLD.

"SAVED THE WORLD"? IF THEY ONLY TRANSFORMED DURING FULL MOONS...

THE CURSE TURNED THEM INTO SUPERNATURALLY STRONG WOLVES THE SIZE OF BEARS EVERY NIGHT.

OOF.

THERE WAS A LOT THAT WAS STRANGE ABOUT THE CURSE.

HOW IT WAS POSSIBLE, AND THE ORIGIN OF IT, REMAIN UNKNOWN.

OR, AT LEAST, NO ONE HAS TOLD ME.

WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT WEREWOLVES?

I ASSUME WHERE RAVEN WENT HAS *SOMETHING* TO DO WITH ABRAHAM, BUT DO I REALLY NEED HIS LIFE STORY?

NO, BUT YOU DO NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE DEWITCHERY DIAMOND, AND HOW ABRAHAM IS CONNECTED TO IT.

I SWEAR I'VE HEARD "DEWITCHERY DIAMOND" SOMEWHERE BEFORE...

I DID MENTION IT EARLIER.

ABRAHAM COULD NOT DESTROY THE DIAMOND, AND IT WOULD NOT STAY HIDDEN FOR SOME REASON.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY, ABRAHAM TURNED HIMSELF TO STONE, AND ARRANGED IT SO IF ANY NEW CURSE DUPLICATES WERE MADE, HE WOULD REVIVE, AND SLAY THEM HIMSELF.

I RISE ONLY TO REAP WHAT I HAVE SOWN

HE HAS THE ABILITY TO TRACK DOWN ANYTHING, OR ANYONE, MADE BY THE DIAMOND.

THAT IS WHY HE CAME TO OUR SCHOOL. HE WAS AFTER A DUPLICATE MADE BY THE DIAMOND.

UNLIKE HIS PREVIOUS HUNTS, HOWEVER, THIS DUPLICATE WAS NOT A MONSTER.

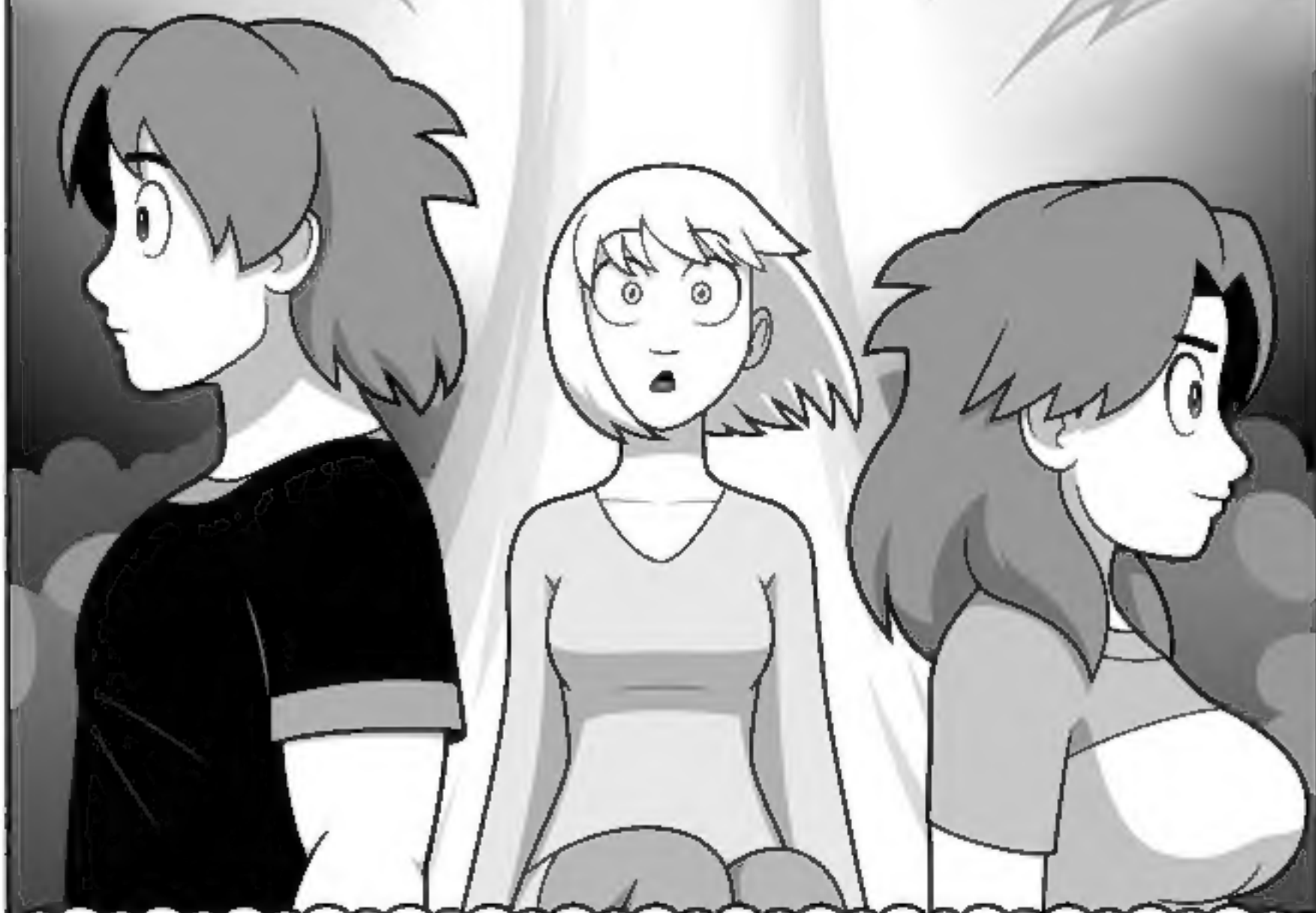
I DO NOT KNOW WHO IT WAS, BUT THEY WERE A STUDENT AT OUR SCHOOL, AND ARE YOU OKAY?

ELLIOT
CAN TURN
INTO A
GIRL.

ELLEN GOES TO A
DIFFERENT SCHOOL
THAN ELLIOT IN
SPITE OF BEING
ELLIOT'S TWIN.

ELLEN CAN
"SPREAD" GIRL
FORMS WITH A
MAGIC BEAM.

ELLEN WAS
DIRECTLY
INVOLVED IN
ABRAHAM'S
ATTACK.



**ELLEN IS A CURSED DUPLICATE OF ELLIOT
CREATED BY THE DEWITCHERY DIAMOND?!**

PARDON ME.

MY BRAIN IS STILL
PROCESSING ALL THIS
INFORMATION.

AH! MY
BRAIN GETS
OVERLOADED
SOMETIMES,
TOO.







DAD WAS DEPUTIZED BY
PARANORMAL INVESTIGATORS
IN THE FBI TO HELP KEEP
ABRAHAM IN CHECK...

...AND TO ASSIST WITH
APPREHENDING SOME-
ONE WHO REGAINED A
PHYSICAL FORM BY USING
THE DIAMOND.

REGAINED A PHYSICAL FORM?

SO, NOT A CURSED DUPLICATE,
BUT SOMEONE WHO WAS LIKE...

WHAT? A GHOST?

THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

THEY CAME FROM ANOTHER
UNIVERSE, WERE STUCK IN A
GHOST-LIKE STATE, AND SOME-
HOW USED THE DIAMOND TO
BECOME PHYSICAL AGAIN.

THEY HAVE A BODY CREATED FROM
MAGIC, AND A *FUSION* OF MAGIC
POWER FROM *TWO REALITIES*.

THEIR MORALITY IS UNKNOWN,
BUT THEY ARE ON THE RUN,
POTENTIALLY *VERY DANGEROUS*,
AND HAVE UNKNOWN GOALS
AND MOTIVATIONS.

IT IS POSSIBLE THEIR ONLY
GOAL IS TO SURVIVE IN PEACE,
BUT THAT IS NOT BEING
TAKEN FOR GRANTED.



ALSO, THEY
MIGHT HAVE
ROBBED A
BANK?

DAD SAID THEY
MIGHT HAVE A LOT OF
MONEY, BUT I HAVE
NO IDEA HOW.

BOOOO!

H-HERE!
JUST TAKE
IT!





HE'S GOING TO TEACH AT MOPERVILLE UNIVERSITY?!

YES, THAT IS CORRECT.

THAT...

THAT'S CHEATING!

AT WHAT?

I'M BEING FORCED INTO A SITUATION WHERE HE'S GOING TO BE AROUND!

AGAIN!

I KEEP NOT HAVING THE OPTION TO JUST IGNORE HE EXISTS!

... OF COURSE, THE MOMENT I ACCEPTED NOAH AS MY BROTHER, I GUESS...

...I ALREADY MADE A CHOICE ABOUT RAVEN BEING IN MY LIFE...

AND THAT WAS BEFORE I FOUND OUT HE'D BE TEACHING THERE!

I WIN.

WIN WHAT?



YOU DO NOT LIKE
DAD, DO YOU.



WH... WHAT?

W-WHY WOULD
YOU SAY THAT?



I SOMETIMES MISS SOCIAL CUES
BUT CRYING OUT TO THE HEAVENS
IS DIFFICULT TO MISS.

GLURK

YOU WILL
BE GOING TO
MOPERVILLE
UNIVERSITY?

UH. YEAH...



I ASSUMED YOU
WERE AVOIDING DAD AT
SCHOOL BECAUSE SOCIAL
CONFRONTATIONS ARE
TERRIFYING...

BUT I AM GETTING
A DIFFERENT
IMPRESSION NOW



I DON'T... I MEAN.

I'VE ONLY KNOWN HIM
AS A TEACHER, BUT...

IT'S NOT LIKE I...



IT'S NOT
HIM I DON'T
LIKE

I DON'T
THINK.

IT'S THE SITUATION.

I'M UPSET BY THE SITUATION HE LEFT MY BIOLOGICAL MOTHER IN. AND THE AGE DIFFERENCE THERE MUST HAVE BEEN.

THE SORT OF AGE DIFFERENCE YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE OUT OF A FANTASY NOVEL WITH FICTIONAL MAGIC PEOPLE

BUT LIVING THAT LONG WHILE BASICALLY STUCK IN YOUR TWENTIES, A PERSON'S BOUND TO GET



A-ANYWAY! THE BIG THING FOR ME IS... I ALREADY HAVE A DAD, AND A MOM.

THEY RAISED ME THEY'RE MY PARENTS.

I NEVER CARED ABOUT KNOWING WHO MY BIOLOGICAL PARENTS WERE.



NEVER?



I BRIEFLY ASSUMED MY SISTER AND I WERE SECRET PRINCESSES WHO WOULD HAVE TO SAVE OUR OLD KINGDOMS SOME DAY, BUT THAT DOESN'T COUNT



IT FEELS... *WRONG* TO SEE RAVEN LIKE A FATHER. IT FEELS WEIRD JUST *BEING* HERE

IT FEELS LIKE... LIKE I'VE GOT A SECOND FAMILY BEHIND MY FAMILY'S BACK



LIKE I'M BETRAYING THEM,



I SEE.



YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR PARENTS EVERYTHING.







I CAN'T DO THAT!

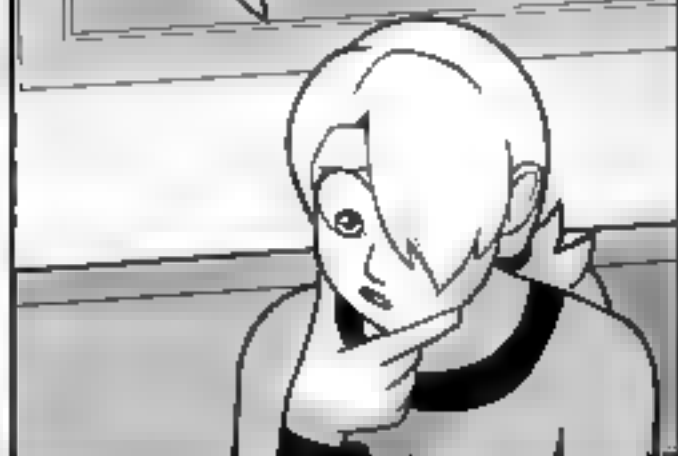
WHY NOT? IF YOU TELL YOUR PARENTS.

MY PARENTS DON'T KNOW ABOUT MAGIC AND MONSTERS!

I WOULD ASSUME THEY HAVE SOME AWARENESS AFTER THE PAST YEAR.

THOUGH PEOPLE DO COMMONLY ASSIMILATE SUCH INFORMATION OVER TIME TO FIT WITHIN ALREADY EXISTING PERCEPTIONS WHICH CAN WARP LONG-TERM MEMORIES.

IN HIS "WAR OF THE GHOSTS" EXPERIMENT BRITISH PSYCHOLOGIST SIR FRÉDÉRIC BARTLETT.



KNOWING WEIRD STUFF HAS HAPPENED IS NOT THE SAME AS BEING CLUED IN, AND IT'S DEFINITELY NOT THE SAME AS KNOWING THEIR DAUGHTER'S BIO-DAD IS *HALF-IMMORTAL*!

NO, I CAN'T!

YES, BUT YOU CAN TELL THEM THOSE THINGS.

IF YOUR CONCERN IS THAT YOU ARE UNABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT MAGIC IS REAL...



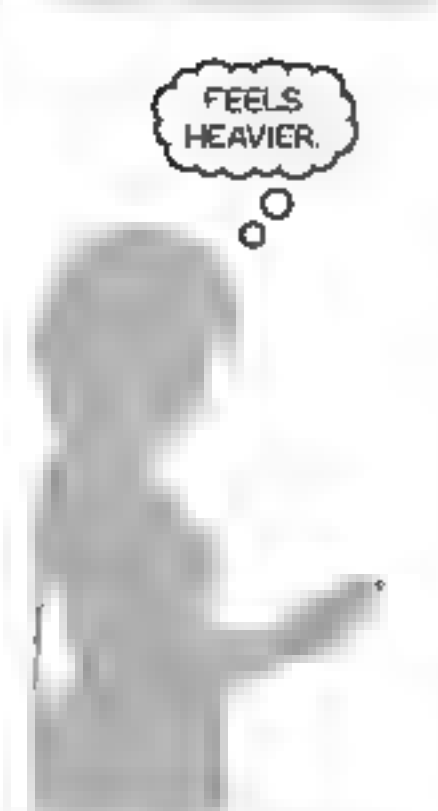
I DON'T WANT TO PROVE MAGIC IS REAL!

I DON'T WANT THEM TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH MAGIC!

I DON'T..

I DON'T WANT THEM TO LOOK AT ME DIFFERENTLY







Father **THE
END**

Story comics will return Weds, Mar 1



COME ON,
EVERYONE!
KEEP UP THE
HUSTLE!

SORRY SUSAN, BUT WITH SAM,
THERE'S POTENTIAL KISSING AND
STUFF SO I NEED TO PRIORITIZE
SPENDING TIME WITH HIM.

I'D INVITE
YOU, BUT THAT'D
BE WEIRD

YOU'D MAKE
IT WEIRD.

MAYBE YOU'LL
ACTUALLY MEET
HIM, AND LEARN
WHAT HE LOOKS
LIKE SOMEDAY?

YOU KNOW,
WHEN WE DO
SOMETHING AS
A GROUP WITH
OTHER PEOPLE?

HEY,
LISTEN.

I DON'T *ACTUALLY* WANT
TO DATE BUT WOULD YOU
BE WILLING TO *SAY* WE'RE
DATING, AND GO ON
DOUBLE DATES WITH ME?

YOU WILL
REMAIN SILENT,
AND THERE WILL
BE NO PHYSICAL
CONTACT

HM...

WHAT IF...
WE DATED?

I DUNNO.
COULD WE
SMOOCH?

WE COULD
HUG, AND SIT
IN CLOSE
PROXIMITY?

YEAH, SEE, MY
TIME DEMANDS
DOING MORE
"THINGS," SO

WHOOSH WHOOSH WH



SORRY, I
DON'T DO...
"THINGS"

ARE YOU NOT
INTERESTED IN
DOING "THINGS"
AT ALL

OR IS THIS JUST
YOUR ANXIETY ABOUT
GETTING DIRTY?

I'M NOT
SURE TO BE
HONEST



WHAT IF WE
MADE SURE I
WAS ALL

...SQUEAKY
CLEAN BEFORE-
HAND?



THWUMP

SUSAN!

HOW'D SHE TRIP?!
SHE WAS GOING LIKE
A MILE AN HOUR!

WHAT MAKES IT
WORSE IS I'M OFTEN
NOT FREE TO DO STUFF
AFTER SCHOOL.

ON TOP OF HOMEWORK,
I'M STILL WORKING PART
TIME FOR SOME.

THUNK

FOR SOME...

FOR SOME...

THUNK
THUNK
THUNK

REASON!

CREAK WHOOSH

HOLY WHAT
THE CARP

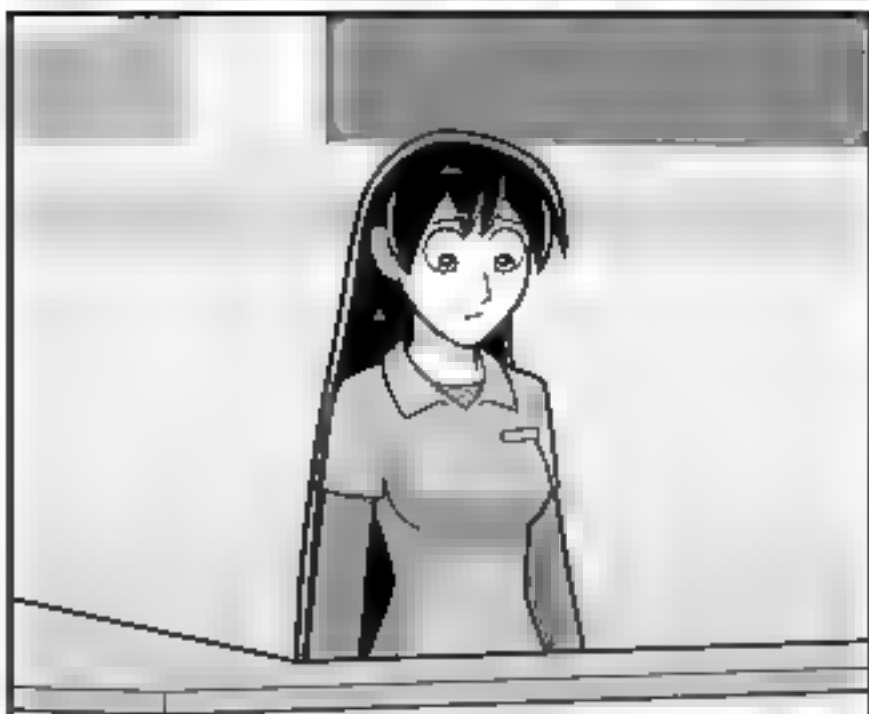
I CAN'T WAIT
TO BE DONE WITH
THIS *GARBAGE*
SCHOOL, THIS
AWFUL STICKY
LOCKER, AND THAT
JOB MY MOM MADE
ME TAKE SO I
WOULDN'T "GROW
UP SPOILED"!

SO I KNOW IT'S
STILL A WAYS OFF,
HOPEFULLY...

...BUT I WAS WONDERING
IF YOU KNOW WHEN YOU
WANT YOUR LAST DAY
WORKING HERE TO BE?

EH?







UH...

I LET'S TALK UPSTAIRS.

OKAY GOOD

IT SEEMS AS EMPTY AS IT USUALLY IS UP HERE BEFORE CLASSES

SO... UH...

WHAT'S WRONG?



I DON'T KNOW

SUSAN, YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING. I WON'T—



NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

I GENUINELY DON'T KNOW WHY I'M CRYING!



BUT...

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT?



I-IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

A LOT OF FEELINGS DON'T MAKE SENSE THAT DOESN'T MAKE THEM ANY LESS REAL



DOESN'T IT?

NO, YOU'RE UPSET THAT'S REAL.

PLEASE HELP ME HELP YOU THROUGH IT



TENSAIDED EXPECTS ME
TO QUIT WORKING FOR
HIM BEFORE COLLEGE.

HE ASKED IF I KNEW
WHEN I WANTED MY
LAST DAY TO BE

YOU'RE SAD ABOUT
QUITTING YOUR JOB?

I'VE
WANTED TO
QUIT FOR
MONTHS!

I'M ONLY
THERE TO
KEEP MY MOM
HAPPY

I WAS EVEN
MAD ABOUT
HAVING TO
WORK
YESTERDAY!

BUT THEN
TENSAIDED GIVES
ME THE PERFECT
EXCUSE TO QUIT,
AND IT'S LIKE A
PUNCH TO THE
GUT?

AND RIGHT AFTER
THAT, HE TALKS ABOUT
HOW THE STORE MIGHT
CLOSE EVENTUALLY
BECAUSE OF VIDEO
STREAMING, AND...

I SPENT THE REST
OF THE NIGHT TRYING
NOT TO CRY

AND AT OUR
LOCKER THIS
MORNING?

NO SENSE! NO
SENSE AT ALL!

OUR LOCKER
DOOR STICKS,
AND INSTEAD
OF GETTING
ANNOYED, I
THINK SOME
THING LIKE

"I'M NOT
GOING TO
HAVE THIS
LOCKER
FOREVER."

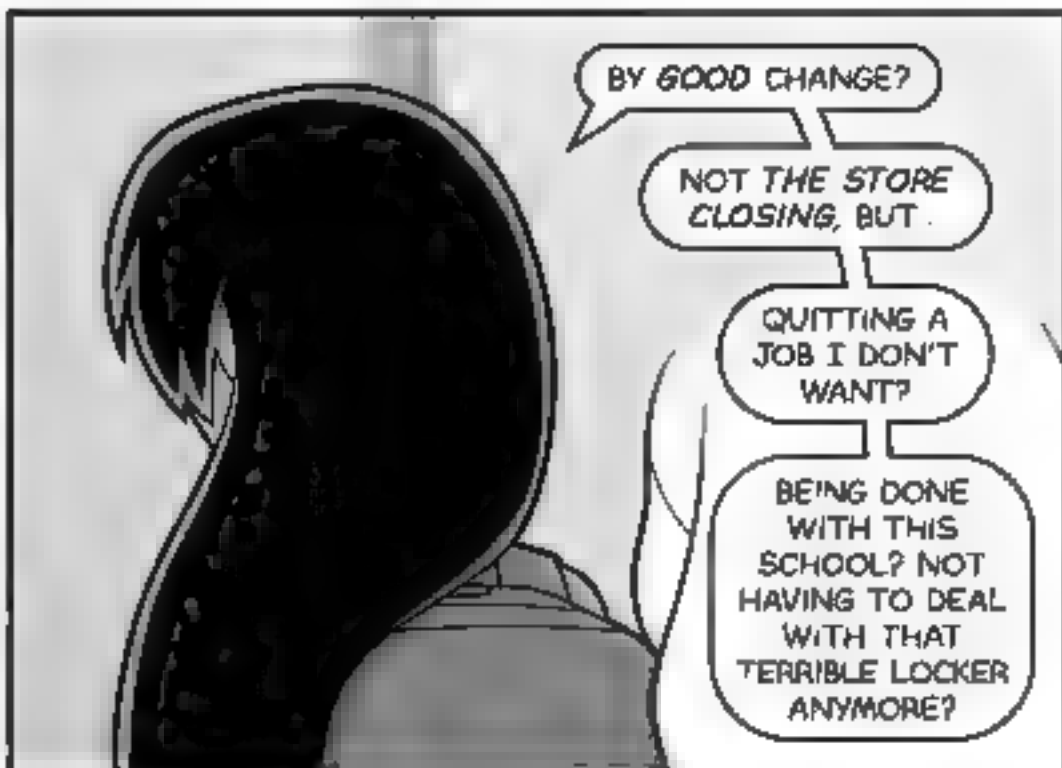
AND IT
MADE ME
CRY

WHAT SENSE
DOES THAT
MAKE?



IT
JM...

MAYBE
YOU'RE
UPSET BY
CHANGE?



BY GOOD CHANGE?

NOT THE STORE
CLOSING, BUT...

QUITTING A
JOB I DON'T
WANT?

BEING DONE
WITH THIS
SCHOOL? NOT
HAVING TO DEAL
WITH THAT
TERRIBLE LOCKER
ANYMORE?



WELL, I
MEAN...

YOU'VE WORKED THERE
FOR YEARS, AND YOU'VE
BEEN HERE FOR YEARS...

IT'S... WHAT'S
NORMAL FOR
YOU, AND...

THERE IS STUFF
YOU LIKE ABOUT BOTH
PLACES, RIGHT?

LIKE, YOU STARTED
YOUR MOVIE REVIEW
SHOW WITH ELLIOT
BECAUSE OF YOUR
JOB, AND...

YOU
HAVE
FRIENDS
HERE.

YOU MET
CATALINA HERE
GOT TO KNOW
ELLIOT AND
TEDD HERE.



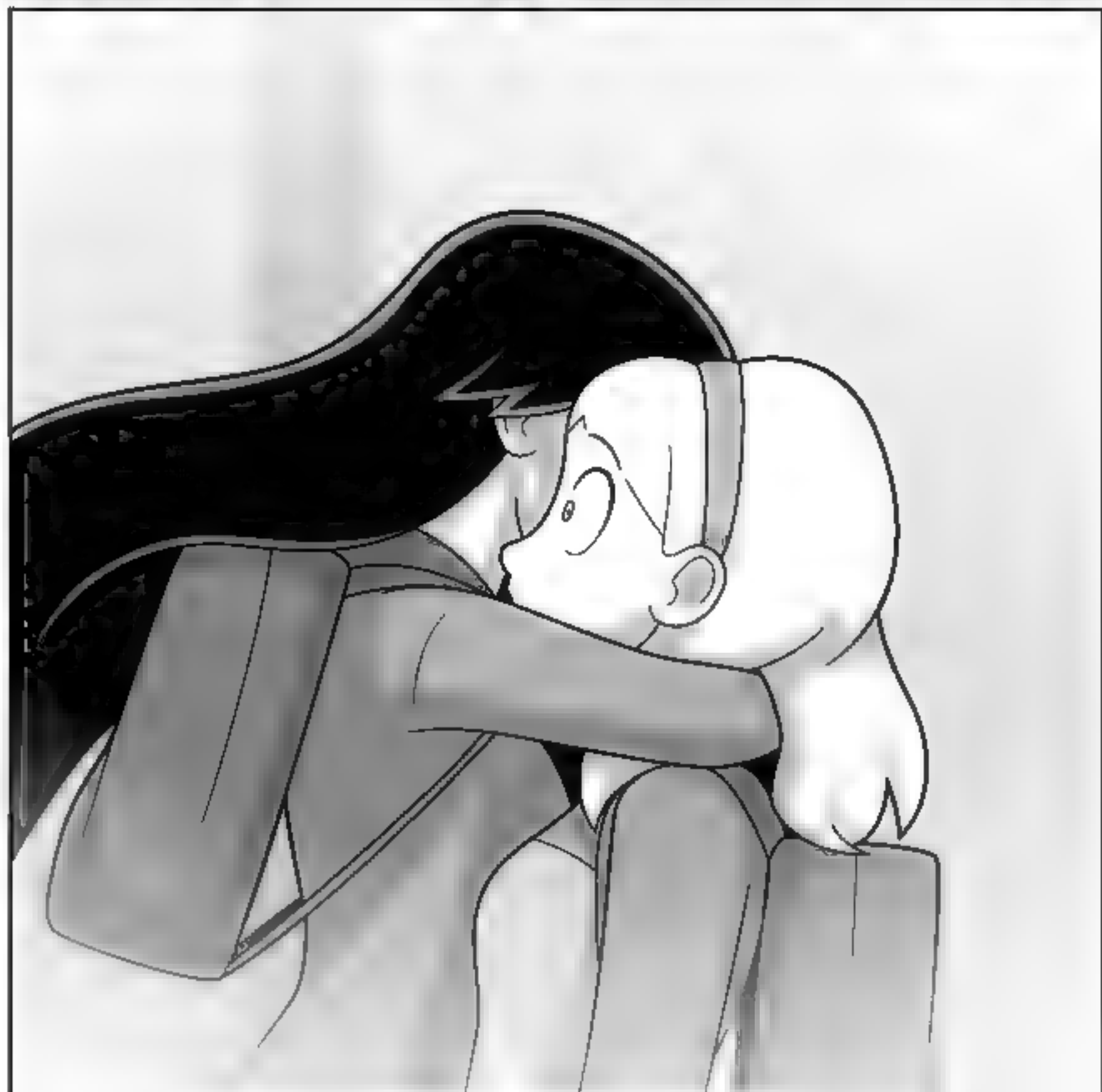
AND WHAT'S
THERE TO LIKE
ABOUT A LOCKER
WITH A STICKY
DOOR?

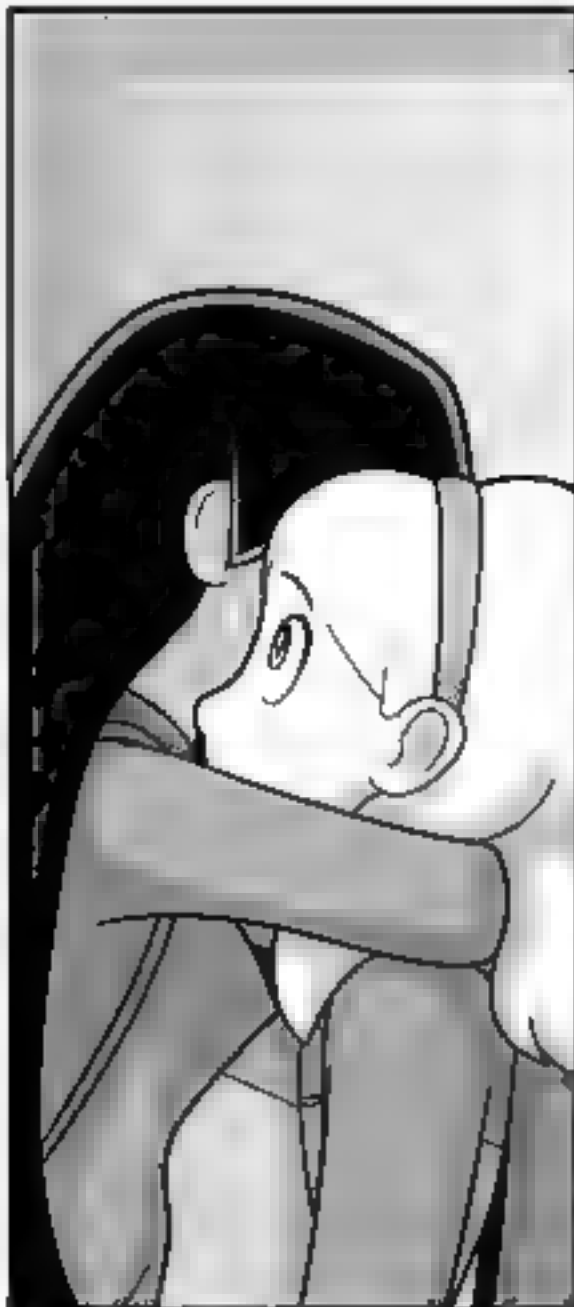


YOU SHARE
IT WITH ME?



I WANT TO
HANG OUT
MORE





Later, heading to class...





WHAT
WHAT THE
HELL?

WHY ARE THERE A
BUNCH OF COMMENTS
ABOUT *CHANGE*?

ARE THESE ABOUT
HOW I'M FEELING
ABOUT *CHANGE*?
HOW COULD THAT
BE POSSIBLE?!

WHO EVEN
MADE ALL
THESE
COMMENTS?!

IT LOOKS LIKE
THEY'RE ALL
FROM SOMEONE
CALLED...

"DEUS-D-MINUS-4"?

TEDD!

I NEED TO
TALK TO YOUR
DAD AFTER
SCHOOL!

Approximately 0.5 seconds later

!



SO,
SUSAN.

YOU REFUSED TO
TELL TEDD WHY YOU
NEEDED TO SEE ME.
YET HERE I AM.

GIVEN THAT I LEFT
WORK EARLY FOR THIS, I
HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND
HOW MUCH TRUST IS
ON THE LINE HERE



I THINK THE
IMMORTALS
HAVE CHANGED
THEIR LAWS



SLUMP



YOU DON'T THINK
THEY HAVE



NO, YOU'RE
PROBABLY GOING
TO BE RIGHT
ABOUT IT

I'M JUST
SO SICK OF
CHANGE

RELATABLE.



BEFORE
MANUALLY
RESETTING HIS
IDENTITY AN
OLD IMMORTAL
VOWED TO BE
MY ALLY

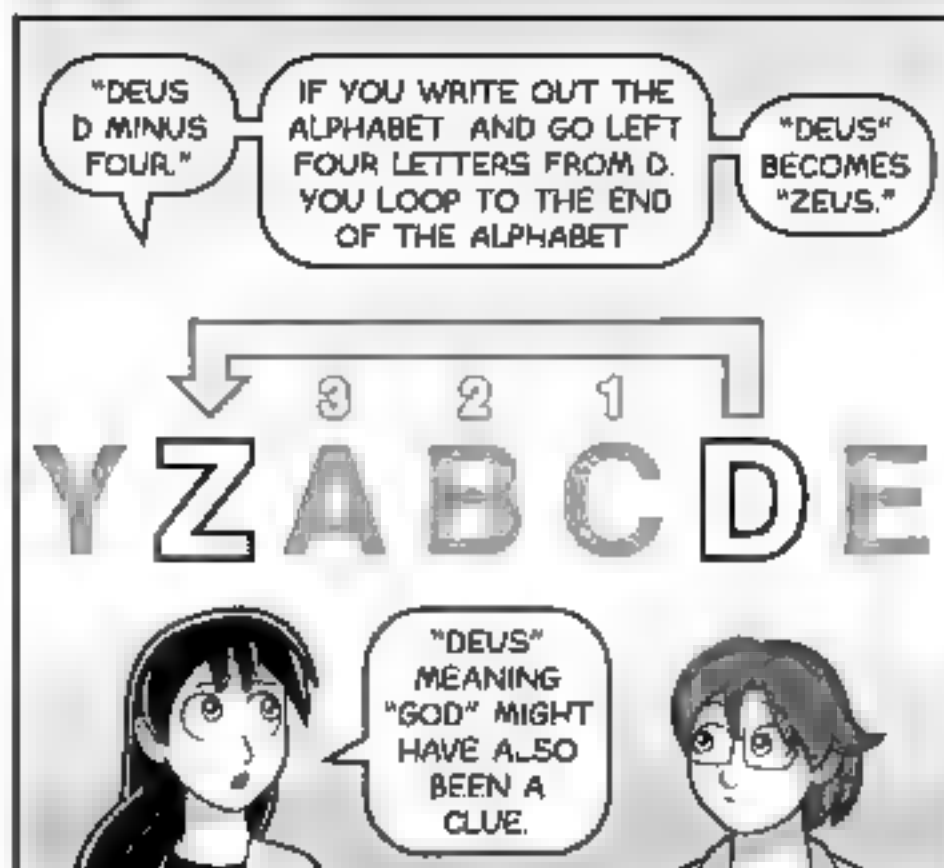
WHEN HE
RESET HE
CHOSE THE
NAME
"ZEUS"

OF
COURSE
HE DID

I THINK HE FELT
OBLIGATED TO TELL ME
ABOUT THE CHANGES
TO IMMORTAL LAW, BUT
DIDN'T WANT TO TELL
ME THEM IN PERSON.

POSSIBLY
BECAUSE HE
DIDN'T WANT
TO BE SEEN
TELLING ME
ANYTHING.

IN ANY CASE,
HE LEFT HINTS
IN COMMENTS
ON MY MOVIE
REVIEW VIDEOS
WHILE USING
A CODED USER
NAME THAT'S
EASILY
DECIPHERED.



"DEUS
D MINUS
FOUR."

IF YOU WRITE OUT THE
ALPHABET AND GO LEFT
FOUR LETTERS FROM D.
YOU LOOP TO THE END
OF THE ALPHABET

"DEUS"
BECOMES
"ZEUS."

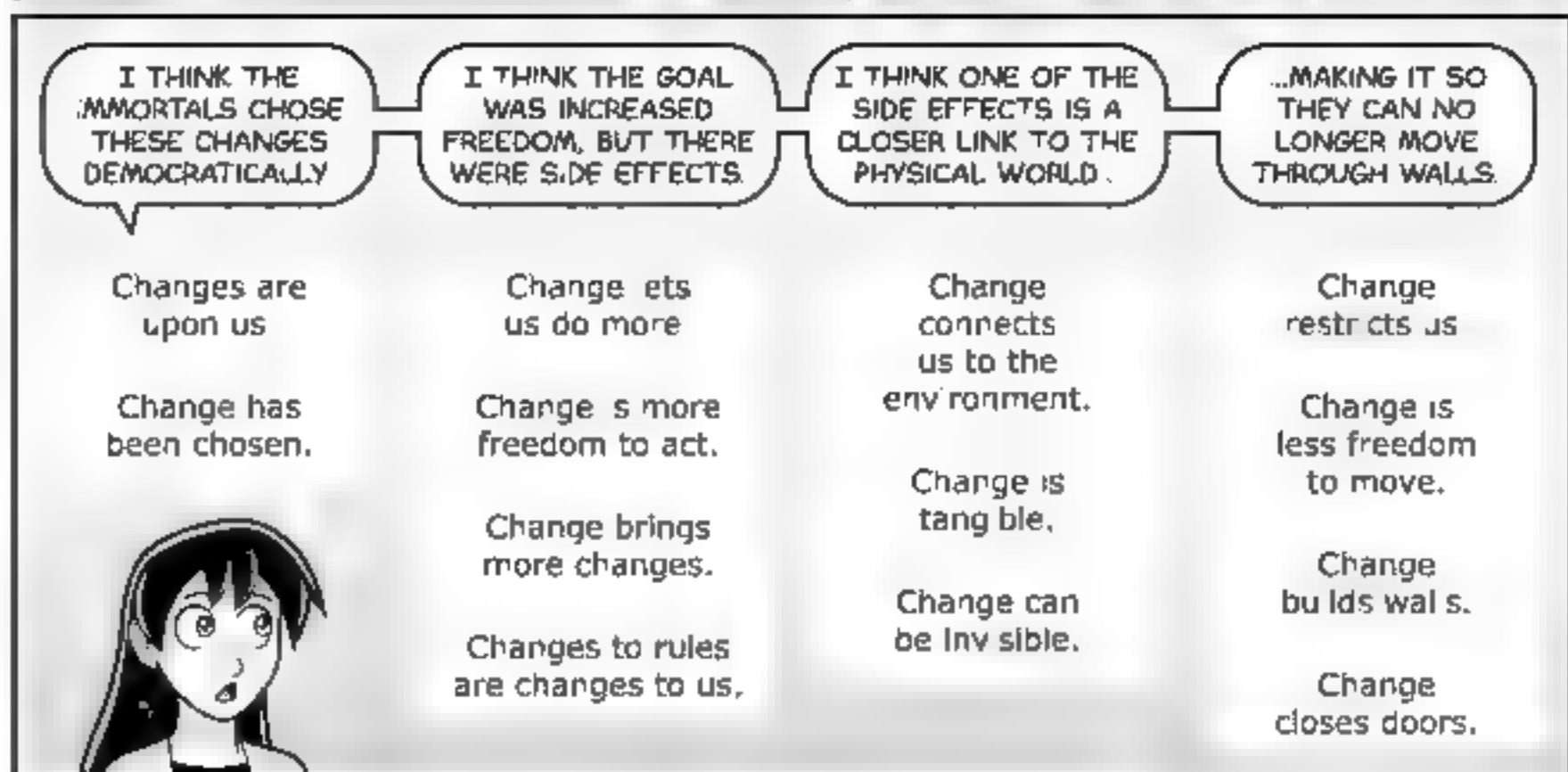
Y Z A B C D E

"DEUS"
MEANING
"GOD" MIGHT
HAVE ALSO
BEEN A
CLUE.



ALL OF HIS
COMMENTS
WERE ABOUT
CHANGE.

PUT TOGETHER, I
THINK THEY ROUGHLY
SUGGEST WHAT THE
CHANGES WERE



I THINK THE
IMMORTALS CHOSE
THESE CHANGES
DEMOCRATICALLY

Changes are
upon us

Change has
been chosen.

I THINK THE GOAL
WAS INCREASED
FREEDOM, BUT THERE
WERE SIDE EFFECTS.

Change lets
us do more

Change is more
freedom to act.

Change brings
more changes.

Changes to rules
are changes to us,

I THINK ONE OF THE
SIDE EFFECTS IS A
CLOSER LINK TO THE
PHYSICAL WORLD.

Change
connects
us to the
environment.

Change is
tangible.

Change can
be invisible.

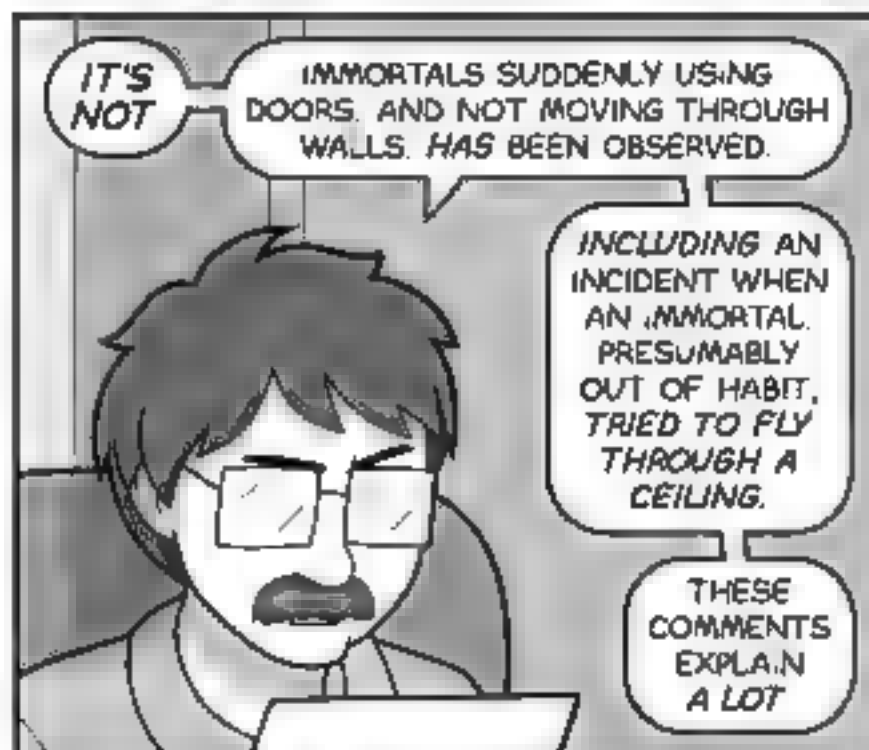
...MAKING IT SO
THEY CAN NO
LONGER MOVE
THROUGH WALLS.

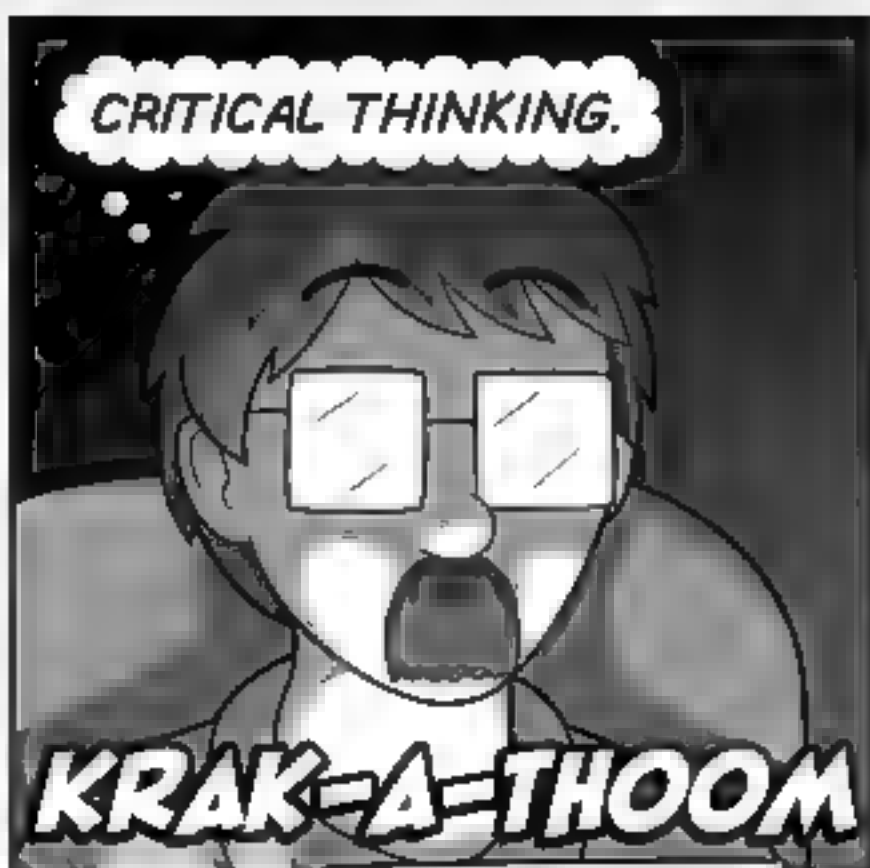
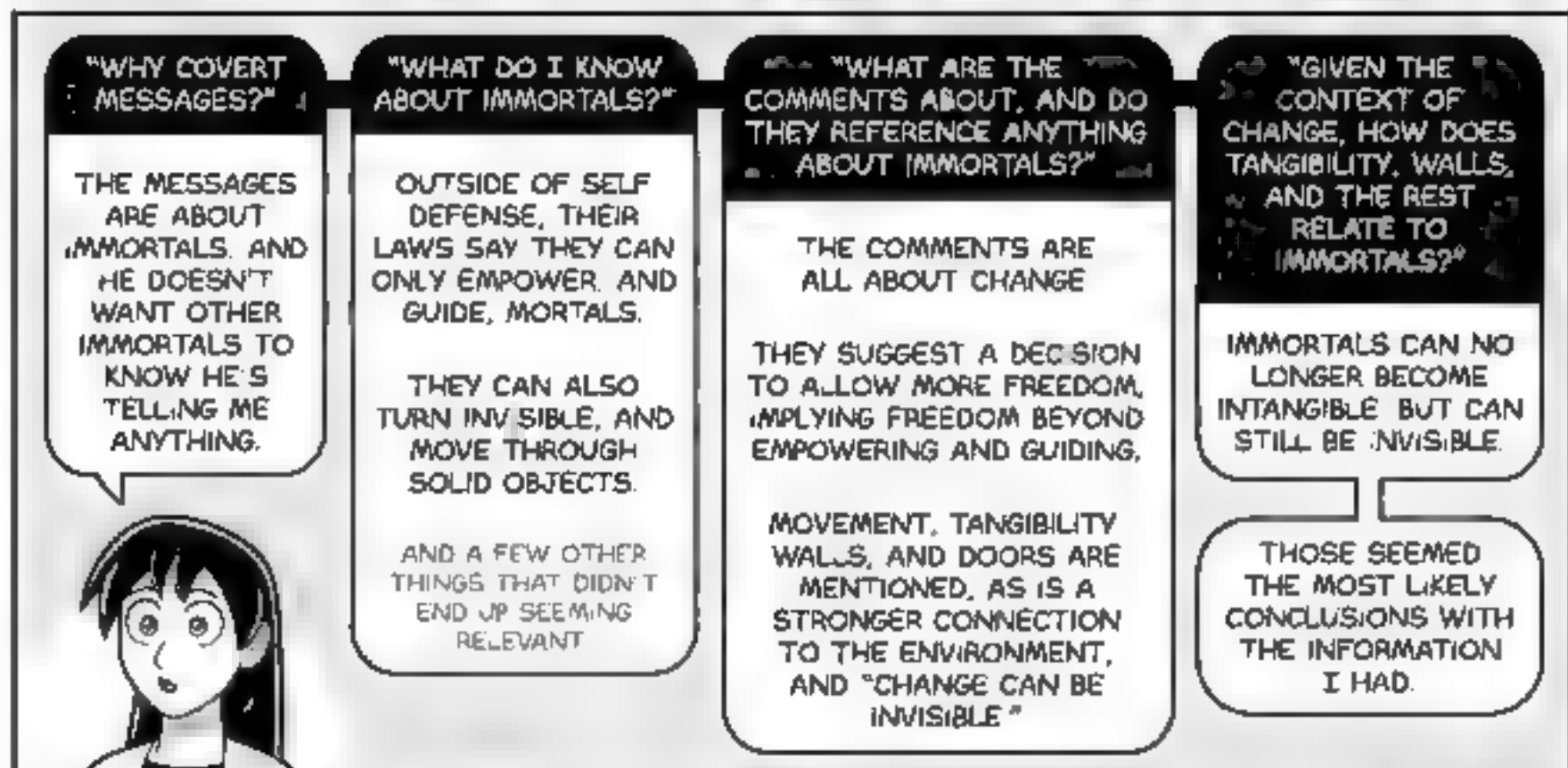
Change
restricts us

Change is
less freedom
to move.

Change
builds walls.

Change
closes doors.





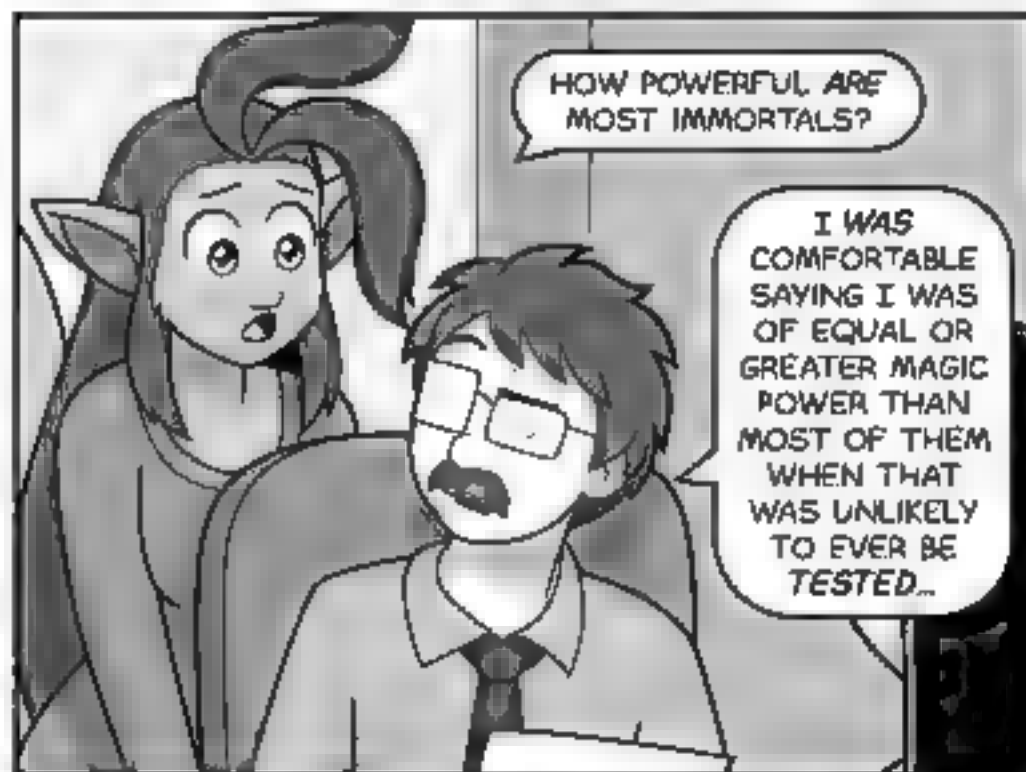


~AHEM~ WELL, SUSAN, I AGREE WITH YOUR CONCLUSIONS

WHILE WE COULD BE MISTAKEN ABOUT ANY NUMBER OF THINGS

...THE POSSIBILITY THAT IMMORTALS CAN NOW DO MORE THAN EMPOWER AND GUIDE MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

I WILL PASS THIS ALONG TO ARTHUR, AND THOSE WHO NEED TO KNOW WILL BE WARNED.



HOW POWERFUL ARE MOST IMMORTALS?

I WAS COMFORTABLE SAYING I WAS OF EQUAL OR GREATER MAGIC POWER THAN MOST OF THEM WHEN THAT WAS UNLIKELY TO EVER BE TESTED...



NOW? THAT FEELS ARROGANT

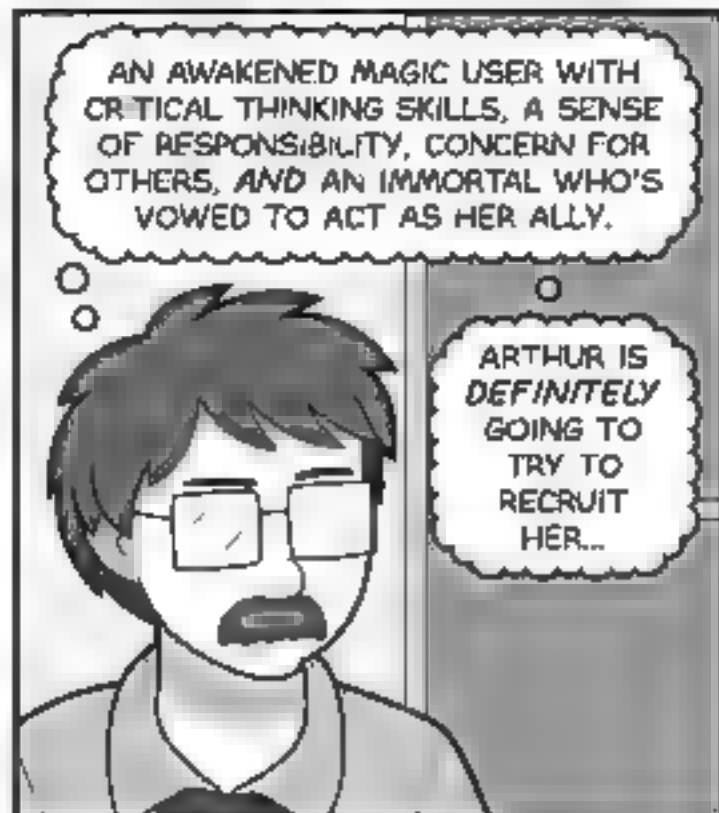
I RECOMMEND NOT ANTAGONIZING ANY IMMORTALS YOU ENCOUNTER.

NOT THAT I RECOMMEND ANTAGONIZING ANYONE ELSE, MIND YOU.



THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME THIS, SUSAN. I'M GOING TO INFORM ARTHUR.

YOU'RE WELCOME AND THANK YOU



AN AWAKENED MAGIC USER WITH CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS, A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, CONCERN FOR OTHERS, AND AN IMMORTAL WHO'S VOWED TO ACT AS HER ALLY.

ARTHUR IS DEFINITELY GOING TO TRY TO RECRUIT HER...





ECSTATIC. DISAPPOINTED. AND
MELANCHOLY IMMORTALS
WITH MORE FREEDOM THAN
THEY'VE EVER KNOWN?

WE NEED TO BE PREPARED...



SUSAN!

YOU'RE STAYING
UP TO DATE ON
YOUR SPELLBOOK
NOW, RIGHT?

?!



UH, YES.
BUT THE ONLY
NEW SPELL I
HAVE BARELY
COUNTS.

"BARELY
COUNTS"?

IT'S JUST A DEDICATED SPELL
FOR SUMMONING FAIRY DOLLS

IT'S ONLY A LITTLE
DIFFERENT FROM WHAT
I COULD DO ALREADY



THE BIG DIFFERENCE IS THEY
DON'T NEED TO COPY A MAGIC
DOLL, AND LOOK LIKE ME

WITH
CHANGES
F I
WANT
THEM.

AND THEY CAN BE QUIETLY
SUMMONED, AND DISMISSED
EARLY, WHICH I GUESS IS A
LOT MORE CONVENIENT.



THAT
COULD BE
REALLY
USEFUL!

THE ORIGINAL
FAIRIES WERE A MIX
OF YOUR MAGIC
AND NANASE'S...

THERE WAS
NO WAY I
COULD COPY
THAT, BUT I
MIGHT BE ABLE
TO COPY THIS!



WANDS THAT
SUMMON DOLL-
SIZED FAIRIES
COULD HELP
DEAL WITH
MISBEHAVING
IMMORTALS?

MAYBE? AT
A MINIMUM,
THEY COULD
FLY AROUND
TO CHECK FOR
INVISIBLE
PEOPLE.



OH. WAIT NANASE SAID USING HER "FOX" DUPLICATE SPELL CAN MAKE IT HARDER TO THINK NOW

DOES THAT HAPPEN WITH THESE FAIRIES?



WELL...

UH...

SHE DOESN'T HAVE ONE SUMMONED RIGHT NOW DOES SHE?



IF I WANT TO AVOID THAT I CAN USE MORE MAGIC, ONLY SUMMON ONE AND NOT GIVE THEM ANY COMPLEX TASKS.

IF THAT'S ALL I DO, IT'S LIKE,

LIKE HAVING A SHOW I'VE SEEN BEFORE ON WHILE DOING OTHER THINGS.

SO LIGHT MULTITASKING?

YES.

THE MORE MAGIC I USE PER FAIRY, THE LESS I NOTICE ANY DIFFERENCE



SO... IF I DO MAKE WANDS FOR THE SPELL, THEY'LL NEED TO HOLD A LARGE CHARGE, OR IT'LL BE A PROBLEM FOR MOST PEOPLE TO USE...

AND A SUMMON SPELL IS GOING TO BE COSTLY TO BEGIN WITH.



AND THAT'S ALL ASSUMING I CAN COPY IT AT ALL, BUT WE CAN SORT THAT OUT SOME OTHER TIME.

THAT WORKS FOR ME

YAY FUTURE HANGING OUT WITH FRIENDS!



DOES ZEUS



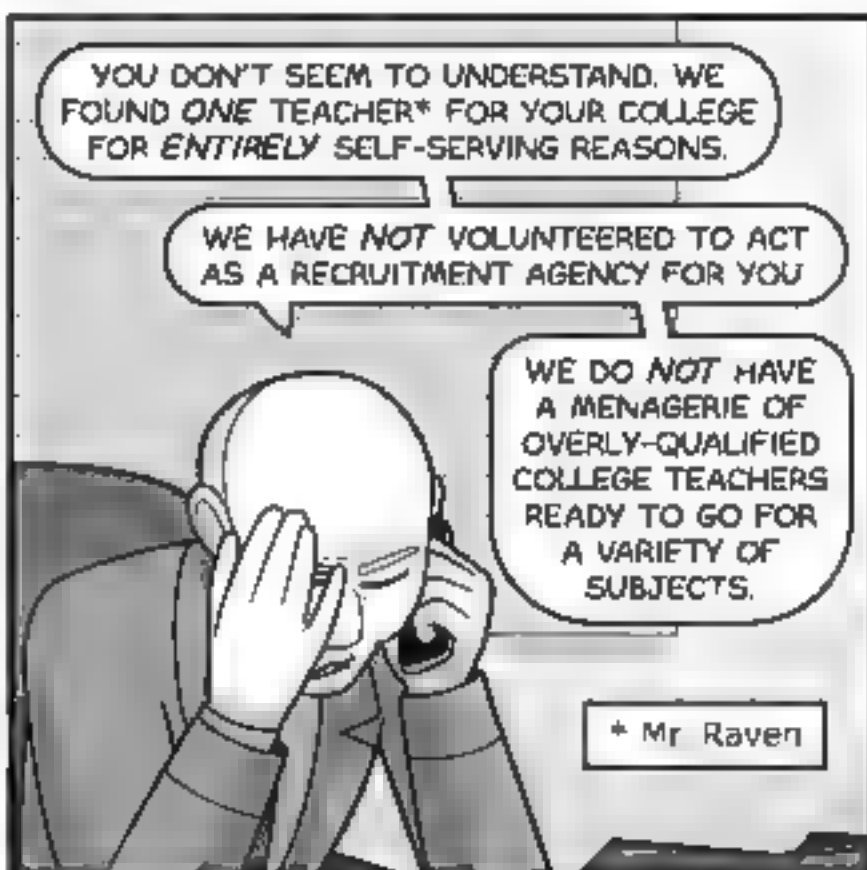
AMT CONC





Our Future **THE
END**

Story comics will return wednesday, May 3rd





OKAY! THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME WHERE RAVEN IS! NOW, I SHOULD MAKE US SOME DINNER!

ACTUALLY I'D PREFER WE ORDER PIZZA.



YOU DOUBT MY COOKING PROWESS?



NO NO NO!

IT IS JUST...



YOU DO NOT EVEN KNOW WHAT I HAVE IN MY KITCHEN. AND ONCE WE ACTUALLY FIGURED OUT WHAT TO EAT, YOU WOULD BE STUCK COOKING IT

I WOULD MUCH RATHER SPEND THAT TIME GETTING TO KNOW YOU BETTER



OH! UM... I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT!

MAYBE I'LL COOK ANOTHER TIME?



I WOULD LIKE THAT



NOW TO DETERMINE THE TYPE OF PIZZA AND ITS TOPPINGS. YOU ARE NOT VEGETARIAN, ARE YOU?

UM, NO.

GOOD I CONSUME A LOT OF PROTEIN.

LISTEN. IF IT SUITS OUR MACHINATIONS, OR WE COINCIDENTLY FIND SUITABLE PEOPLE, WE WILL PROVIDE MORE TEACHERS FOR YOUR COLLEGE, BUT I PROMISE NOTHING.

IT'S THE BEST I CAN DO.

GOODBYE

IT WAS NICE TALKING TO YOU

YOU'D THINK SHE THINKS SHE'S THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. THE WAY SHE TALKS TO ME

IF SHE DOES, SHE GROSSLY OVERESTIMATES HOW MUCH WE TELL POLITICIANS

HMPH IS THAT INFORMATION ON SUSAN?

FULL NAME TIFFANY SUSAN POMPOMS, YES.

YOU'RE JOKING.

I AM NOT

HER PERSONAL INFORMATION PERMANENT RECORD KNOWN ASSOCIATES, AND EVERYTHING MR. VERRIS HAS TOLD US ABOUT HER.

DOES ANY OF THIS ADDRESS WHY AN IMMORTAL VOWED TO BE HER ALLY?

NOT DIRECTLY, BUT SHE DOES HAVE AN AFFINITY FOR SUMMONED WEAPONS.

SO SOME BASTARD GOT HER TO KILL A MONSTER, AND EITHER THEY FELT LIKE THEY OWED HER...

...OR ANOTHER IMMORTAL RECOGNIZED HOW WRONG THAT WAS.

~SIGH~

IF THAT'S CORRECT, I WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE HER ALONE.

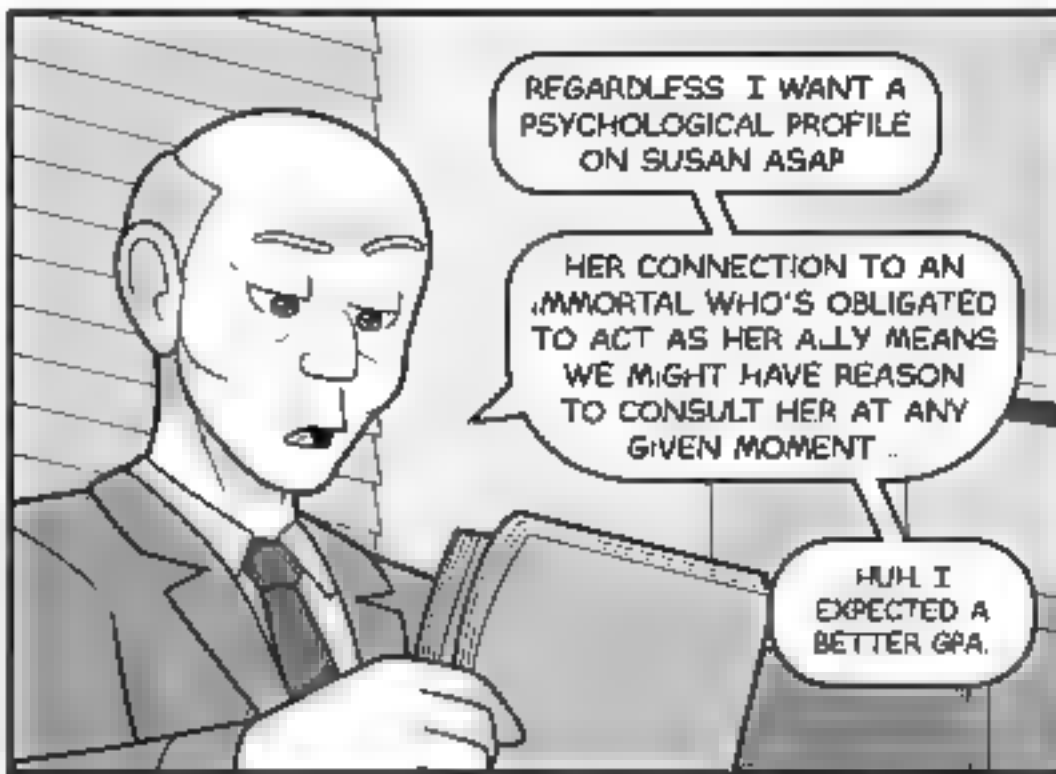
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO, OF COURSE

WHAT I WANT IS RARELY RELEVANT

THAT SAID, SHE'S FRIENDS WITH TEDD. AND GOING TO THE SAME COLLEGE THAT MAGIC SHOULD BE FLOWING TOWARDS.

WHICH WILL LIKELY RESULT IN ALL MANNER OF "INCIDENTS"

WE MIGHT NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING TO TEST HER WORTH OR GET HER INTERESTED IN JOINING US.



REGARDLESS I WANT A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE ON SUSAN ASAP

HER CONNECTION TO AN IMMORTAL WHO'S OBLIGATED TO ACT AS HER ALLY MEANS WE MIGHT HAVE REASON TO CONSULT HER AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT ..

HUH I EXPECTED A BETTER GPA.



YOU SEEM DETERMINED TO INCREASE OUR NUMBERS.



WE HAVE ONE FULL AGENT, A TRAINEE, A HISTORY TEACHER, AND A CRIMINAL GOING AFTER MAGUS.

OUR NATIONAL FIELD AGENT SHORTAGE IS SERIOUS



MADE WORSE BY MS. CRANIUM QUITTING.

DON'T REMIND ME EDWARD FILLED HER HEAD WITH COMPLETELY WRONG IDEAS ABOUT OUR ROLE ?



MY GOD. THIS EDUCATION HISTORY..!

NOT SUSAN'S! HER EMPLOYER'S! MR. TENSAIDED!

I DON'T RECALL ANYTHING SPECIAL ABOUT SUSAN'S EDUCATION.

HE'S POTENTIALLY QUALIFIED FOR ONE OF THE INSTRUCTOR POSITIONS!



I MIGHT BE ABLE TO BUY MYSELF A WEEK OR TWO OF NOT BEING TOLD TO FIND MORE TEACHERS!



GIVEN HOW
FEW CUSTOMERS
WE GET BEFORE
THE AFTERNOON,
THERE'S AN
ARGUMENT FOR
NOT OPENING
UNTIL THEN...


...BUT SOMEONE'S
GOING TO BE HERE TO
DO THINGS LIKE PUT
RETURNED MOVIES
BACK ANYWAY, SO
MAY AS WELL HAVE
IT OPEN IN CASE..

DING
DONG

OH HEY
SOMEONE'S
ENTERING.



GASP!



A BUSINESS
PERSON ON THEIR
LUNCH BREAK!



Recruitment **THE END**

Story comics will return Wednesday, May 17th





YOU'RE AN
EXTROVERT?



YES! I GAIN
ENERGY FROM
SOCIALIZING!

I USED TO WORRY THAT
I WAS DRAINING ENERGY
FROM PEOPLE!

YOU HAD
ME CHECK FOR
THAT YEAH.



BUT IT TURNS OUT THAT
I'M JUST AN EXTROVERT IN A
GROUP FULL OF INTROVERTS!



I JUST THOUGHT YOU
HAD A GENERAL SORT OF...
SQUIRREL ENERGY!

LIKE IT
TOOK MORE
TO MAKE
YOU TIRED
FROM
ANYTHING!

AND ALSO THE ALIEN
HYBRID WITH
A TON OF
POWER THAT
DEFIES
THINGS.



WHICH I KNOW
I CAN'T GO TELL
EVERYONE ABOUT,
BUT... I DON'T
WANT TO HIDE.

ME

I WANT TO
BE OUTGOING,
AND MAKE
LOTS OF
FRIENDS!

EVEN
FRIENDS I
CAN'T TELL
EVERYTHING
TO.



DON'T
YOU HAVE
FRIENDS
LIKE THAT
ALREADY?
LIKE
RHODA?

I HAVE NOT EVEN
BEGUN TO FRIEND-
SHIP THEM!

BY WHICH I MEAN
REALLY BE MYSELF
WITH THEM.



GRACE, WE... WE ALL HAVE SECRETS. YOU DON'T HAVE TO LET THEM KEEP YOU FROM MAKING FRIENDS.

AND YOU DON'T NEED MY PERMISSION TO MAKE MORE FRIENDS.



I KNOW I JUST

WANTED TO TELL YOU THIS BEFORE I GO TO A MOVIE WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW



YOU WOULDN'T INVITE ME?

OF COURSE I'M INVITING YOU!

I JUST DON'T EXPECT YOU TO WANT TO GO.



A MOVIE WITH A BUNCH OF PEOPLE I DON'T KNOW

HMMM...



NOPE, YOU'RE RIGHT I DOUBT I'D WANT TO GO

ARE YOU SURE? THIS ISN'T HYPOTHETICAL.



IT ISN'T WHAT NOW?

I GOT AN INVITE ON MY PHONE WHILE THE OTHERS WERE LEAVING.

I MIGHT HAVE ALREADY STARTED BEING MORE OUTGOING...

IT'S YOUR SHORT TERM MEMORY THAT'S ABSURDLY GOOD. RIGHT? YOU HAVE AN AVERAGE LONG TERM MEMORY?

PRETTY SURE, YEAH. WHY DO YOU ASK ELLEN?

MORNING, GRACE!

MORNING, PHIL, MAURICE, BILLY, JOHN, KATIE, TRESS, LAUREN, AND FRANK!

BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE NAMES OF HALF THE SCHOOL MEMORIZED!

WHOOOSH WHOOOSH

OH. IS THAT TOO WEIRD? SHOULD I GET SOME OF THEIR NAMES WRONG ON PURPOSE?

ACK NO DON'T DO THAT FORGET I SAID ANYTHING.

ANYWAY YOU SAID YOU WERE EXCITED ABOUT SOMETHING?

I AM! WE'RE HAVING DINNER OUT WITH LAVENDER ON FRIDAY! TEDD AND I FINALLY GET TO MEET HER!

IT'S ABOUT TIME! WHAT'S TAKEN SO LONG?

OH, IT'S BEEN A WHOLE MESS OF STUFF GOING ON.

THINGS GOT REALLY BUSY AFTER MAGIC STOPPED HELPING AS MUCH WITH SPELLS WHICH MEANT EDWARD HAD TO TRAVEL FOR WORK MORE THAN USUAL...

APPARENTLY, IT WAS UP TO HIM TO SMOOTHLY EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO CERTAIN NOT HUMAN PEOPLE...

AND LAVENDER WAS GONE HERSELF FOR A BIT BECAUSE HER SIBLING LILAC WAS HAVING THEIR WEDDING IN NEW YORK...

AND I DON'T KNOW THE SPECIFICS, BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THE LEASE AGREEMENT FOR LAVENDER'S APARTMENT THAT MADE THEM DECIDE SHE SHOULDN'T MOVE IN UNTIL JUNE?

AND WHEN THEY DECIDED THAT, THEY ALSO DECIDED TO HAVE THEIR WEDDING IN LATE JULY...

I'M JUST GOING TO ASSUME ALL YOUR MEMORY IS EXTRA GOOD NOW

I'VE BEEN
AGONIZING OVER
IT FOR WEEKS...

BUT I CAN'T
PUT IT OFF ANY
LONGER.

I HAVE TO
DECIDE WHAT
TO DO.

I...



I NEED TO
DECIDE ON A
HAIRCUT!

THAT SHORT HAIRCUT
YOU HAD WAS CUTE



I'M NOT REALLY
GOING FOR "CUTE."

YOU'RE NOT?
THAT'S GOING TO
BE DIFFICULT



WHAT'S
ALL THIS
CUTENESS?

TEDD'S MEETING HIS
FUTURE STEPMOM
FRIDAY, SO HE'S FINALLY
GETTING A HAIRCUT



AND YOU'RE
DECIDING
WHETHER TO
EMBRACE HOW
YOU WANT
TO LOOK...

...OR WHAT
YOU THINK
WILL MAKE A
GOOD FIRST
IMPRESSION.



WELL, I AM NOW!

I JUST DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT STYLE I WANTED!

OH, SORRY

WHY DO YOU NEED TO GET A HAIRCUT WHEN YOU CAN. YOU KNOW...

"ZAP"
IT

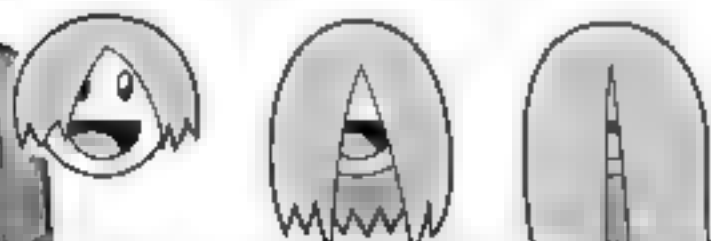
ONE, BECAUSE I NEED A *REAL HAIRCUT EVENTUALLY* MY DEFAULT FORM'S HAIR WILL (SOMEHOW) KEEP GROWING EVEN IF MAGIC'D DIFFERENT

TWO, WE'RE GOING TO A RESTAURANT, SO SOMEONE WE KNOW MIGHT SEE ME.

Enchanted appearance over time



Actual appearance over time



THREE, MY DAD ASKED ME TO, AND WHILE I COULD SAY "I'M AN ADULT, AND IT'S MY HAIR, DAD," WE'RE MEETING HIS FIANCEE, SO... FAIR ENOUGH!

HOW DOES YOUR "DEFAULT" HAIR KEEP GROWING WHEN IT'S TRANSFORMED INTO SOMETHING ELSE?

NO IDEA. BELIEVE ME, I'D LOVE TO KNOW

STUFF LIKE THAT IS WHY TRANSFORMATION MAGIC ISN'T ALSO HEALING MAGIC.

IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT WANT LONG HAIR LATER, YOU SHOULD JUST ASK THE BARBER TO EVEN THINGS OUT

I REALLY SHOULD HAVE IT SHORTER FOR SCIENCE SAFETY

DOES LONG HAIR ACTUALLY MATTER WITH THE TYPE OF EXPERIMENTS YOU DO?

IT DIDN'T, BUT I WANT TO MAKE CUSTOM EQUIPMENT FROM SCRATCH, WHICH INVOLVES SEWING, WOODWORKING, AND EVENTUALLY METALWORKING, SO... KINDA WANT TO KEEP IT MEDIUM OR SHORT, JUST TO BE SAFE

OF COURSE I COULD TRANSFORM MY HAIR SHORT WHEN DOING THOSE THINGS. OR WEAR IT IN A VARIETY OF WAYS THAT KEEP IT UP AND OUT OF THE WAY BUT I WANT TO NARROW DOWN MY OPTIONS, SO I'M JUST GONNA IGNORE ALL OF THAT

I-I PROMISE YOU!

GOLD COINS AND MORE

THIS IS THE CURRENT, ACCURATE
EXCHANGE RATE FOR GOLD! YOU CAN
LOOK IT UP YOURSELF EASY!

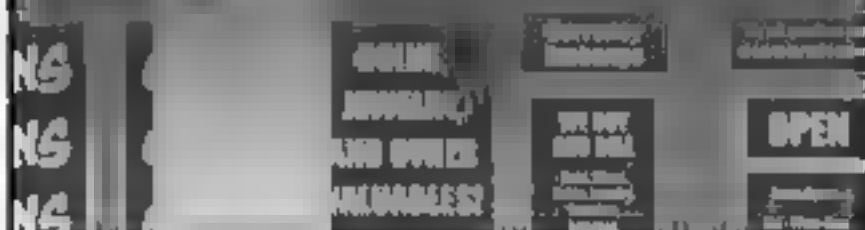
I'LL GIVE YOU
THE FULL VALUE
FOR YOUR GOLD
COINS IN CASH,
NO PROBLEM!

N-NO ID
NECESSARY!

THANK
YOU,
YOUNG
MAN...

State ID
required
for ALL
trades

Not acceptable
if you are
under 21



BUT THERE'S
NO REASON TO
BE NERVOUS.





SO

MIST



WHAT DID YOU MAKE HIM SEE US AS?

GANGSTERS!

"GANGSTERS"?



YEAH! BIG, TOUGH CRIMINAL GUYS!

THEY'RE BAD NEWS, BUT FASCINATING!

I'VE SEEN A BUNCH OF MOVE-VEES WITH THEM ON THE HOTEL TEE-VEES, SEE!



I... SEE?

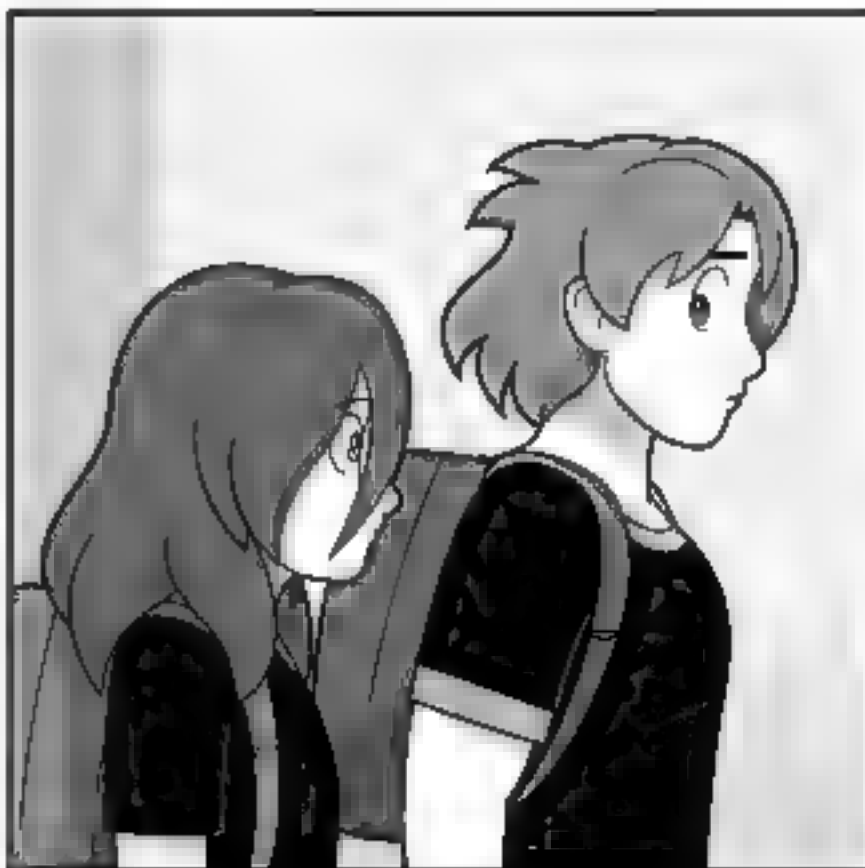


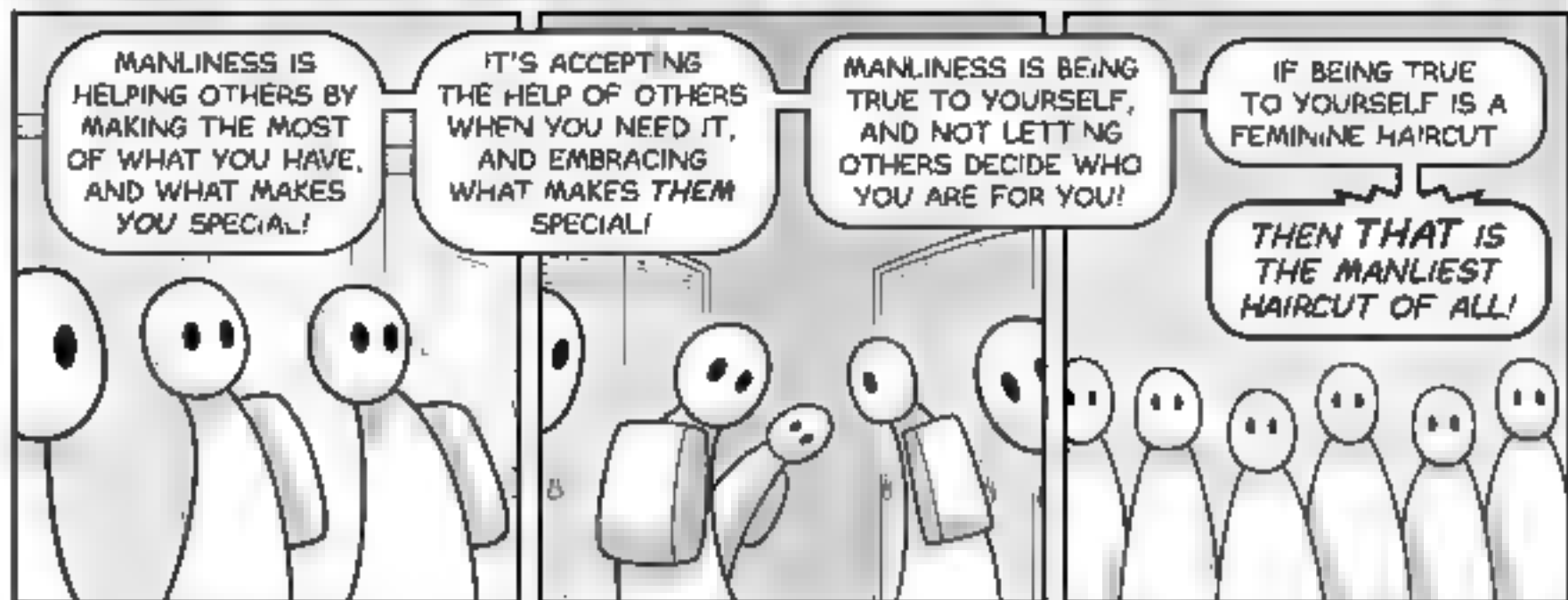
AND YOU'RE CERTAIN THAT SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY ON THIS SIDE ONLY SEES OUR GREATER PROJECTIONS?

YES SIR, FUTURE KING! THEIR TECH DOESN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES!

THE CLERK SAW GANGSTERS IN HIS MIND AND EVERY THING ELSE SEES ELDERLY HUMAN WOMEN!

WITH MAGIC BEING A SECRET HERE, THE ONLY DEVICES WE MIGHT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SEEING US AS JRYUOM FOLK WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF ROYALTY SCUM!





JUST TO CLARIFY, ALL THAT STUFF
WOULD BE "WOMANLY" TOO

SEE. THE CONTEXT WAS...

UH...

WE NEED TO GET
TO CLASS BYE

SORRY I WAS
TALKING TOO
LOUD.

ALL OF MY BRAIN CELLS WERE
FOCUSED ON WHAT I WAS TRYING
TO SAY I'M SORRY

I LIKED WHAT YOU SAID.

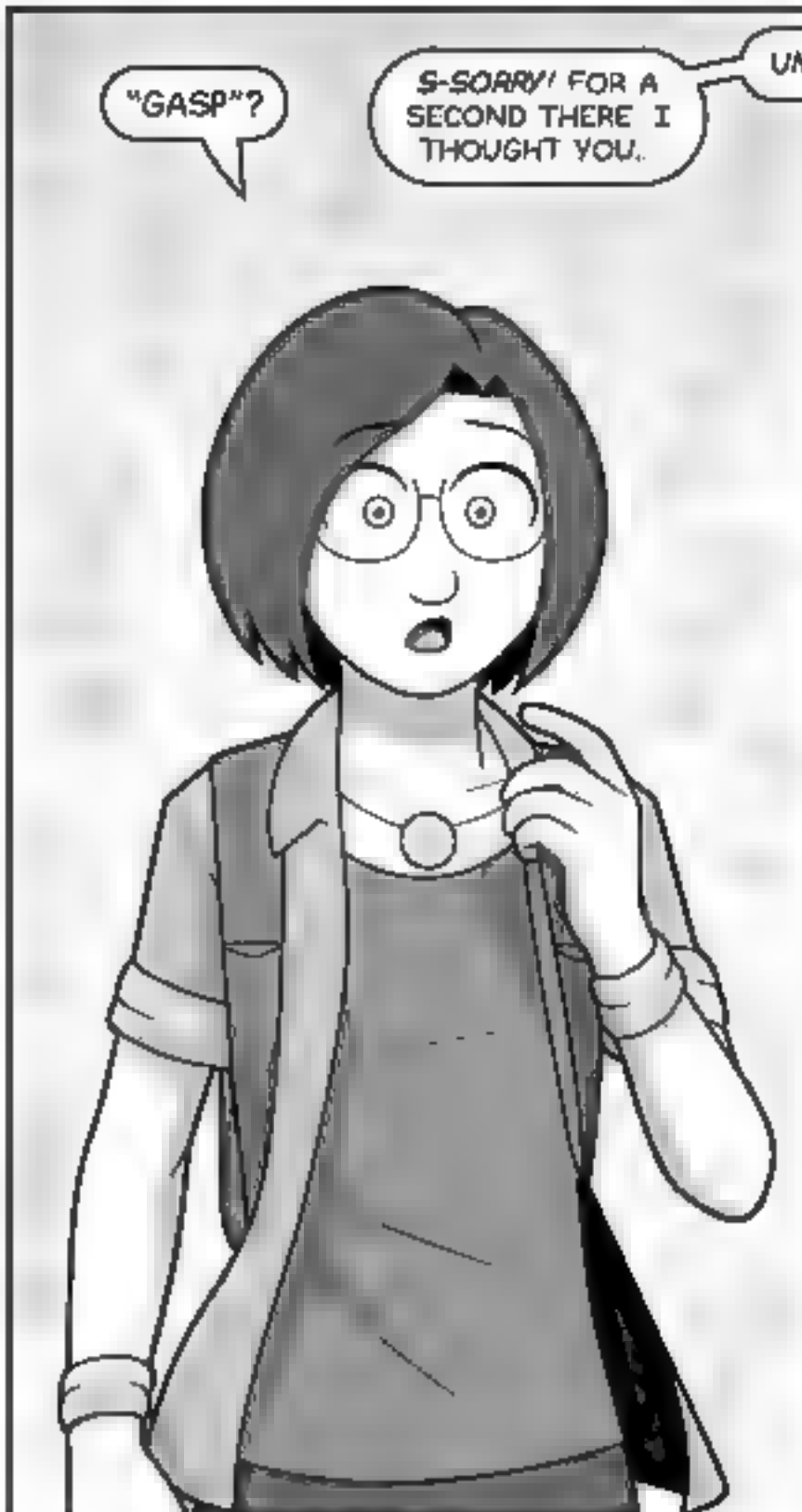
I'M NOT SURE
HOW TO REACT
TO THIS.

GET REVENGE BY HOLDING
HANDS WITH GRACE

OKAY

The next day

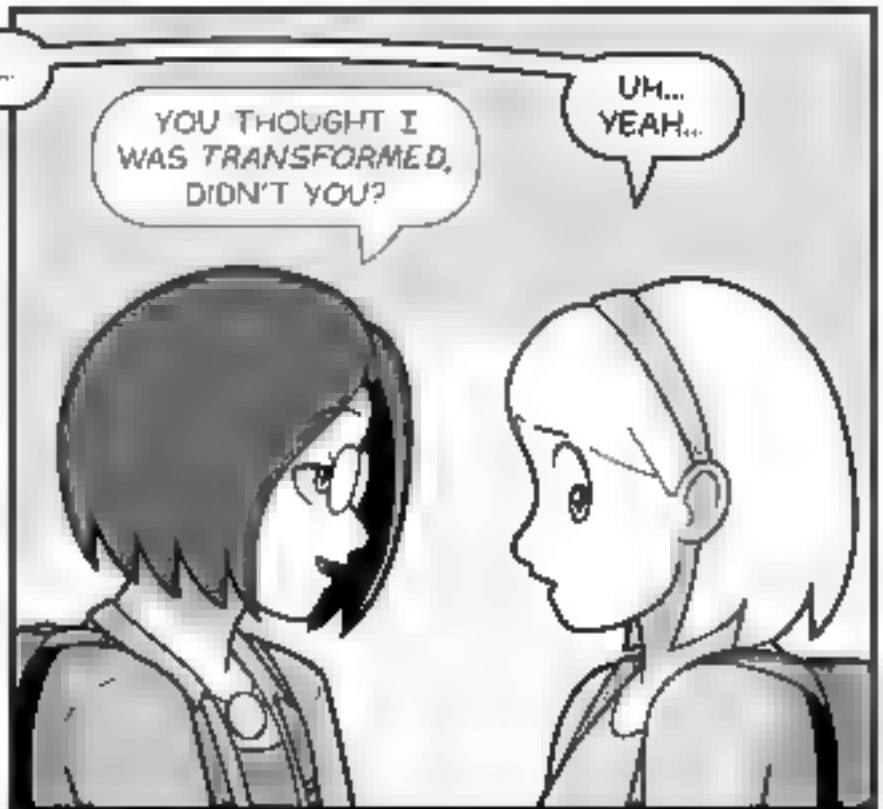




"GASP"?

S-SORRY! FOR A SECOND THERE I THOUGHT YOU..

UM...



YOU THOUGHT I WAS TRANSFORMED, DIDN'T YOU?

UM... YEAH...



NOT SURPRISING THE WAY GENDER NORMS ARE, GENDER NEUTRAL COMES OFF AS FEMININE

THIS IS GENDER NEUTRAL?

I WANTED A LOOK
THAT I'D BE HAPPY
WITH REGARDLESS OF
WHAT "MOOD" I'M IN.

IT MIGHT LEAN
FEMININE? BUT
WHATEVER. I
LIKE IT



GOOD BECAUSE YOU LOOK GREAT!

TH. THANKSTH.



I THINK
WHY YOUR
LOOK "LEANS
FEMININE" IS
MOSTLY THE
PENDANT ON
BARE SKIN.

AND MAYBE THE WRIST-
BANDS? I DON'T KNOW

IS THAT PENDANT COMFORTABLE?
I'M NOT SURE I'D BE COMFORTABLE.
SOMETIMES JUST SHIRT COLLARS
ON MY CHEST BOTHER ME



TO BE HONEST, I'M
MOSTLY WEARING THESE
ACCESSORIES TODAY TO
SEE HOW COMFORTABLE
I AM WEARING THEM.

JUST IN
GENERAL,
AND, Y'KNOW,
IN PUBLIC.



I'LL TELL THEM THE REAL REASON
I WANT TO GET COMFORTABLE
WEARING THESE IN PUBLIC IF AND
WHEN I GET THE RESULTS I WANT

OF COURSE,
GETTING
COMFORTABLE
WEARING
STUFF LIKE
THIS IN PUBLIC
IS IT'S OWN
REWARD.

BUT THAT
IS JUST A
BONUS.





LOOKS LIKE
I MISSED A
TEXT FROM
GRACE

WHAT?!
THIS IS
WHAT TEDD
LOOKS LIKE
NOW?!

LOOKS
GOOD,
RIGHT?



YEAH, TEDD LOOKS GOOD!

AND MY BRAIN DOESN'T
HAVE TIME TO *PROCESS*
THAT BEFORE BED!

I'M GOING TO SLEEP STILL
THINKING "HOT DAMN, THAT'S
A GOOD-LOOKING TEDD!"

DO YOU HAVE *ANY IDEA*
HOW THAT'S GOING TO
MESS WITH MY DREAMS?!

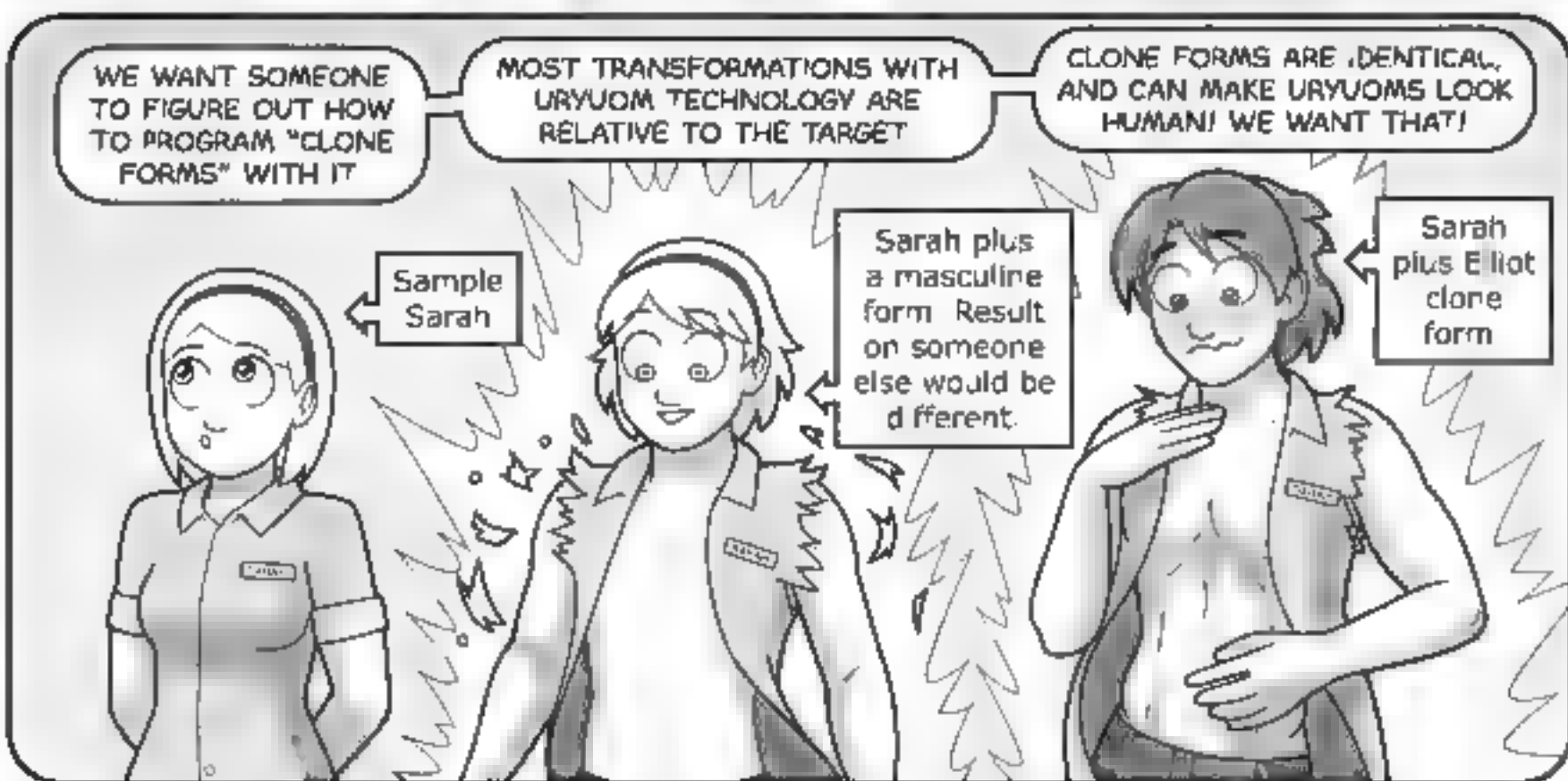
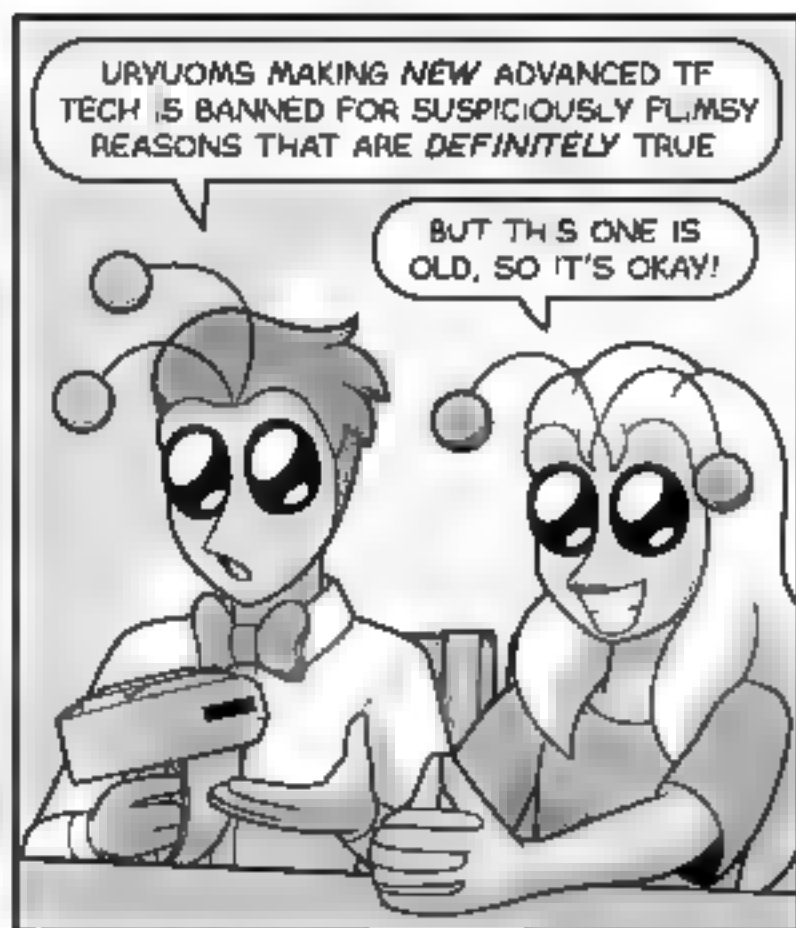


NOPE. I'M GOING TO DREAM ABOUT *BASEBALL*.

LIAR!

Layers, Part 2

An abridged retelling of how, and why, Tedd obtained Uryuom technology





TEDD IS GOOD
AT PROGRAMMING
I THINK I'M NOT
AN EXPERT

AT A MINIMUM,
HE CAN MOD
VIDEO GAMES.

GOOD ENOUGH!
CAN WE GIVE YOUR
CHILD MAGIC ALIEN
TRANSFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY?



I WOULD SAY NO...

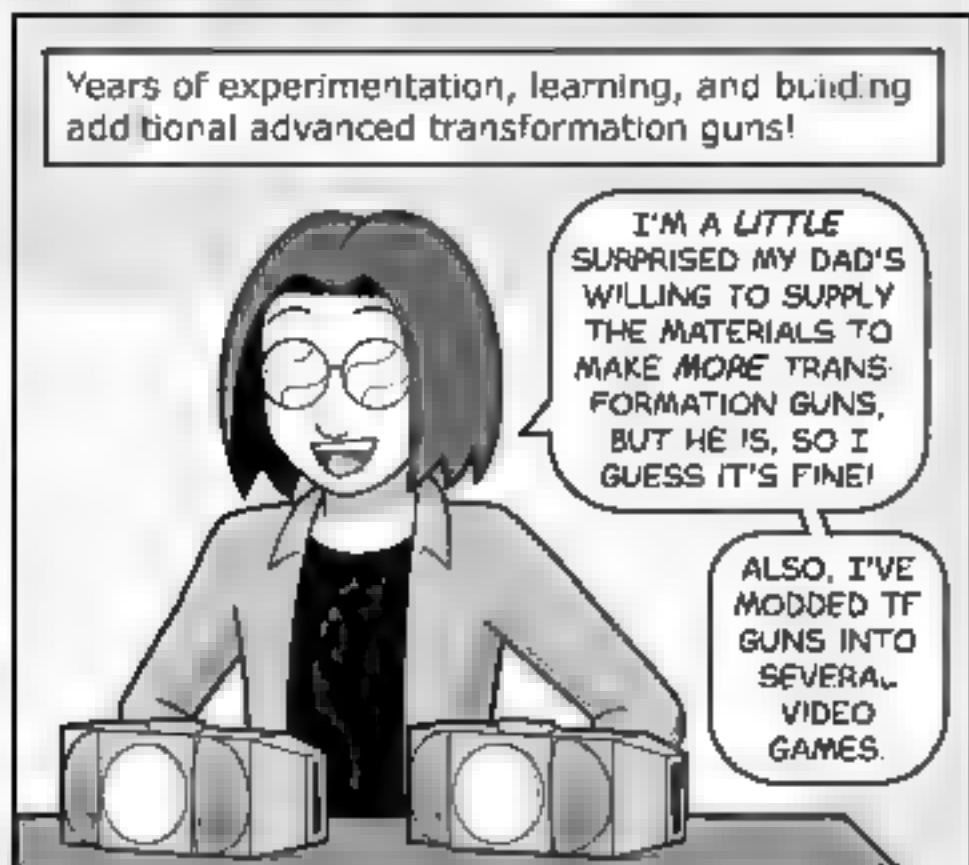
...BUT TEDD JUST SPOKE
UP IN SPITE OF A SERIOUS
COMMUNICATION DISORDER.

SO
YES.



I WANT TO ASK HOW THEY KEEP
BEING URYUOMS A SECRET WITHOUT
CLONE FORMS. BUT I HAVE A SERIOUS
COMMUNICATION DISORDER.

?



Years of experimentation, learning, and building
additional advanced transformation guns!

I'M A LITTLE
SURPRISED MY DAD'S
WILLING TO SUPPLY
THE MATERIALS TO
MAKE MORE TRANS-
FORMATION GUNS,
BUT HE IS, SO I
GUESS IT'S FINE!

ALSO, I'VE
MODDED TF
GUNS INTO
SEVERAL
VIDEO
GAMES.



IT TOOK A
FEW YEARS, BUT
I FIGURED OUT
CLONE FORMS!

ALSO, I'M
COMMUNICATING
BETTER!

HUZZAH!

Grace



SO WILLIAM AND GILLIAN GOT
HUMAN FORMS, AND THAT'S THE
END OF THE STORY OF CLONE
FORMS FOR URYUOMS!

That was
not the end
of that
story.

SO... LAVENDER'S
AN URYUOM, BUT...

SHE'S NOT GOING TO
LOOK LIKE AN URYUOM AT
THE RESTAURANT RIGHT?

I'M NOT SURE?
URYUOMS HAVE SOME
WAY OF HIDING THAT
THEY'RE URYUOMS...

...BUT WILLIAM
AND GILLIAN
ALWAYS LOOKED
LIKE URYUOMS TO
ME? EVEN WHEN
OUTSIDE?

I'M GUESSING
THE CLONE FORMS
THEY HAD ME
MAKE WERE BASED
ON HOW MOST
PEOPLE WERE
ALREADY SEEING
THEM, BUT

YOU NEVER ASKED
THEM ABOUT THAT?

BUT
YOU'RE
YOU!

BY THE TIME I WASN'T
TOO SHY TO ASK, I WAS
WORRIED ABOUT HOW SLOW
MY PROGRESS HAD BEEN.

I DIDN'T WANT TO
SOUND IGNORANT

AND I DIDN'T
WANT THEM TO
SECOND GUESS
WHY THEY WERE
BOTHERING WITH
HUMAN FORMS.

I COULD'VE ASKED DAD. BUT HE WAS...
WEIRDLY SUPPORTIVE OF ME WORKING
WITH ALIEN TECHNOLOGY? LIKE .

THAT BODY SCANNER THAT MAKES CLONE
FORMS OF SPECIFIC PEOPLE POSSIBLE?

I DIDN'T ASK FOR THAT HE
JUST THOUGHT IT MIGHT HELP

HE OBVIOUSLY THOUGHT STUFF I DID WITH
THE TF GUN WAS WEIRD, AND... I DIDN'T GET
WHY HE WAS SO SUPPORTIVE ABOUT IT

I WAS WORRIED THAT
ANY RANDOM THING I SAID
ABOUT IT OR URYUOMS,
MIGHT CHANGE HIS MIND.

Friday, During The Day

I'M SO NERVOUS
ABOUT TONIGHT.

I'D SAY "DON'T BE,"
BUT I KNOW HOW
YOU FEEL, MEETING
NEW FAMILY.

NOT *JUST*
NEW FAMILY!

I'M MEETING *TEDD*!
THE AMOUNT HE'S
DONE FOR URYUOMS
IN AMERICA...

ON EARTH!



LAVENDER!
YOU'RE GOING
TO BE HIS
STEPMOM.

YOU CAN'T
LET HIM THINK
OF YOU AS A
FAN. IT WOULD
BE *WEIRD*.

JUST QUICKLY
THANK HIM FOR
EVERYTHING
HE'S DONE,
AND LET THAT
BE THAT.

UM... PERHAPS..

DON'T THANK TEDD?





YOU DON'T WANT ME TO THANK TEDD?

BUT IT WOULD FEEL WEIRDER NOT... TO...



TEDD DOESN'T KNOW HE'S A HERO. DOES HE?

SO WHICH OF THESE THEORIES ABOUT THE SHIFT IN THE FLOW OF MAGIC MAKE THE MOST SENSE TO—

EDWARD.



SIGH: I COULDN'T TELL TEDD ABOUT THE FIRST THING HE'S KNOWN FOR YOU KNOW THAT

AS FOR THE SECOND THING, WELL...

THANKS TO GRACE, TEDD DOES KNOW URYUOMS CAN USE MAGIC NOW...

...AND, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, TEDD ASSUMES IT'S A RESULT OF HIS MEETING WITH THE WILL OF MAGIC.

WHAT HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IS THE IMMORTAL WHO MADE HIS INVOLVEMENT COMMON KNOWLEDGE AMONG URYUOMS.

I'M... NOT SURE HOW HE'D TAKE ALL THE DETAILS OF THAT.

I DON'T KNOW IF THE IMMORTALS CHANGING THEIR LAWS IS A GOOD OR BAD THING IN THE END BUT THANK GOD THEY CAN'T EAVESDROP SO FREELY ANYMORE.



EVEN IF NEITHER OF US TELL TEDD, HE'S GOING TO FIND OUT SOON.

BECAUSE OF HIS LAB? IT'S POSSIBLE HE'LL MEET MORE URYUOMS AS A RESULT, BUT

ONE, FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, TEDD WILL BE ABLE TO TELL I'M USING A CLONE FORM TONIGHT

TWO, I FULLY INTEND TO HAVE MY FRIENDS OVER ONCE I'VE MOVED IN AND THEY ADORE TEDD.

AND THREE...

OUR WEDDING.

OH. RIGHT



OUR INCREDIBLY LOPSIDED GUEST LIST

GRACE'S GUIDE TO

WHY MEET AT A RESTAURANT?



WHETHER MEETING PEOPLE FOR THE FIRST TIME, OR NEGOTIATING A PEACE TREATY BETWEEN WARRING ALIEN RACES ..

...THERE ARE ADVANTAGES TO DOING SO ON NEUTRAL GROUND!

JUST SAY IT RIGHT! "POE-TAY-TOE!"

POE-TAH-TOE OR DEATH!



A NON-NEUTRAL LOCATION MAKES ONE PERSON OR GROUP THE GUEST OF THE OTHER.

IT AFFECTS THE SOCIAL DYNAMICS OF THE SITUATION, AND INCREASES POTENTIAL FOR TENSION, AND ACCIDENTAL FAUX PAS.

THERE'S ALSO AN INCREASED CHANCE OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS, BUT THAT'S HOPEFULLY NOT APPLICABLE TONIGHT?

THEREFORE! FOR THE HISTORIC EVENT OF TEDD AND ME MEETING LAVENDER, A *FAMILY RESTAURANT* WAS CHOSEN!

RELAXED, CASUAL, AND LOUD ENOUGH TO NOT BE OVERHEARD BY OTHER TABLES!



OH, I'M NOT GOING TO KILL ANYONE

I'M JUST GOING TO STEAL A LOT OF BREAD.

MA'AM, THE BREAD'S FREE.

YOU HAVE FUN EXPLAINING THINGS, DON'T YOU?

AS GOOD AS TEDD AND EDWARD ARE AT IT THEY RARELY EMBRACE SHOWMANSHIP, YOU KNOW?



I THINK WE
FORGOT TWO
CRITICAL FACTORS
WHEN CHOOSING
THIS FAMILY
RESTAURANT



THEY DON'T TAKE
RESERVATIONS, AND
THEY'RE BUSY ON
FRIDAY NIGHTS?

YES. WE FOUND
A PLACE TO PARK
BUT... OH! I THINK
I SEE YOUR DAD!



YEAH, THAT'S HIM. BUT
WHO'S HE TALKING TO?

I DON'T SEE...

WAIT...



THAT'S LAVENDER?!

WOW SHE'S TALL.



HUMAN FACE, NO
TAIL OR ANTENNAE...

IS SHE USING A
CLONE FORM?!



WOULD IT BE RUDE TO
ASK IF SHE'S NATURALLY
THAT TALL?

IT WOULD PROBABLY BE
RUDE TO ASK IF SHE'S
NATURALLY THAT TALL.





TEDD GRACE, THIS IS LAVENDER.
LAVENDER, TEDD AND GRACE

HELLO.

HI!

HELLO.



I'M AFRAID THERE'S
A WAIT FOR A TABLE

THEY GAVE ME THIS. IT
WILL FLASH AND BEEP WHEN
THEY'RE READY FOR US.

OOH!
FANCY!



I'M SORRY IF I STARTLED YOU,
TEDD. YOU MUST BE WONDERING
ABOUT MY APPEARANCE SINCE YOU
SEE THROUGH PROJECTIONS...

I SEE
THROUGH
WHAT
NOW?



PROJECTIONS. THE
INNATE ABILITY URYUOMS
USE TO BLEND IN?

NOT TOO LOUD DID
WILLIAM AND GILLIAN NEVER
TELL YOU? I ASSUMED



I THINK
THEY
ASSUMED
YOU TOLD
ME?

I KNEW
URYUOMS COULD
BLEND IN. BUT I
FELT AWKWARD
ASKING ABOUT
HOW

AND TALKING
IN GENERAL

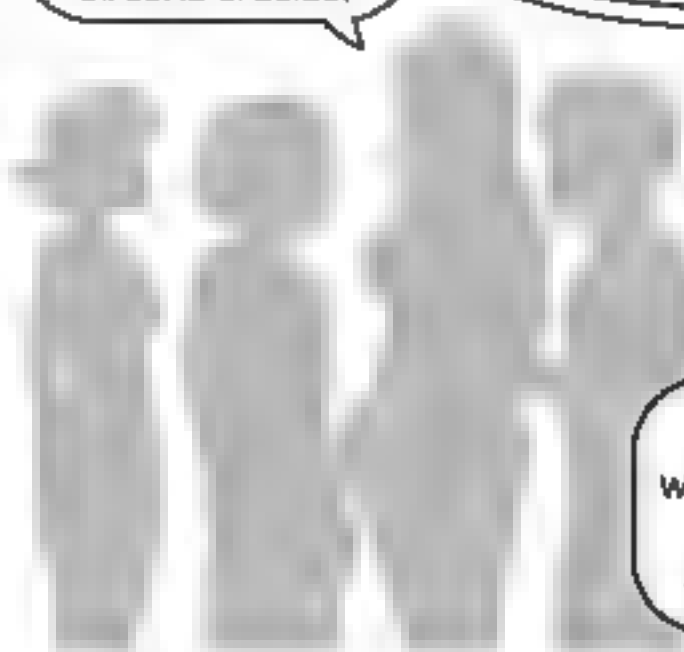
WELL... THIS IS
PUTTING IT LOOSELY,
BUT... THEY'RE
ILLUSIONS THAT
MAKE URYUOMS
LOOK LIKE OTHER
BIPEDAL SPECIES.

PUTTING IT VERY LOOSELY
AND IF ANYONE OVERHEARS,
THIS IS ABOUT A VIDEO GAME

ILLUSIONS
THAT WORK ON
REFLECTIONS AND
CAMERAS...

OR A BOOK
SERIES. THAT
MIGHT BE
BETTER.

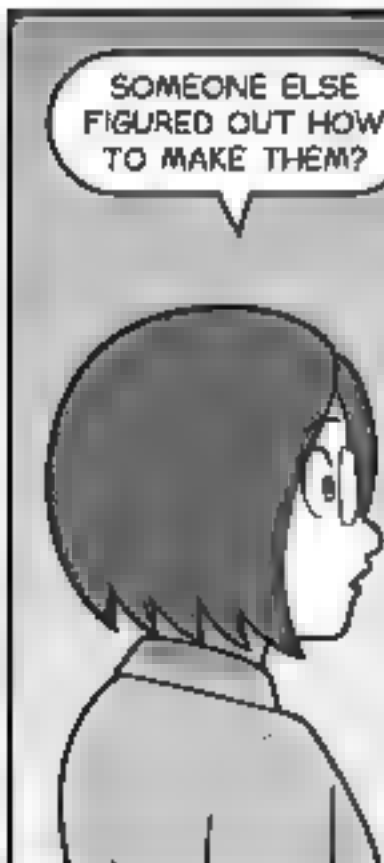
...BUT ALSO CAN
BE SEEN THROUGH
WITHOUT EVEN TRYING,
BY A VERY SMALL
NUMBER OF PEOPLE
THAT INCLUDES YOU







IN ANSWER TO THE OBVIOUS QUESTION, YES. I AM USING A CLONE FORM.



SOMEONE ELSE FIGURED OUT HOW TO MAKE THEM?



NO THEY. THEY COPIED YOU

EH?



I GAVE A COLLEAGUE COPIES OF YOUR WORK

IT WAS USED AS THE BASIS FOR A PROGRAM TO OFFER URYUOMS CLONE FORMS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO PROJECTIONS

AS A RESULT, THE VAST MAJORITY OF URYUOMS IN THE STATES HAVE THEIR OWN CLONE FORMS NOW



YOU .. YOU TOOK MY WORK...

...AND YOU DID THAT?

YES, I'M...



THAT'S AWESOME!

EH?



YOU'RE...
HAPPY?



OF COURSE I
AM! SOMETHING
I MADE WAS
SHARED WITH A
BUNCH OF
PEOPLE!

YEAH. I'D
LIKE TO HAVE
KNOWN
ABOUT IT
SOONER, BUT
I GET HOW
IT IS!

YOU WEREN'T ALLOWED TO
TELL ME BEFORE, RIGHT?

BUT NOW BECAUSE OF THE
WORK I'M GOING TO BE DOING,
AND MEETING LAVENDER, YOU'VE
GOT PERMISSION, RIGHT?



I WAS. UNAUTHORIZED TO
TELL YOU ABOUT IT, YES.

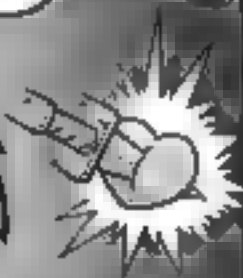
I JUST MANAGED TO
GET CLEARANCE TO TELL
YOU EARLIER TODAY



REALLY?
THANK YOU!

HA HA. SO THAT'S WHY YOU
WERE SO SUPPORTIVE ABOUT IT!

STAG



DAD HAD FAITH
IN MY ABILITIES! HE
TRUSTED ME TO
MAKE CLONE FORMS
WORK, AND I DID!

AND IT'S
HELPING OUT
A BUNCH OF
PEOPLE!



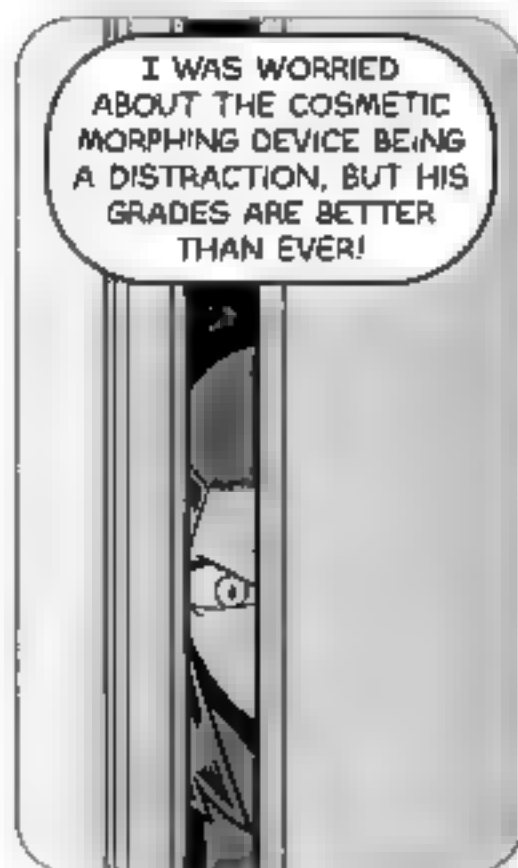
?



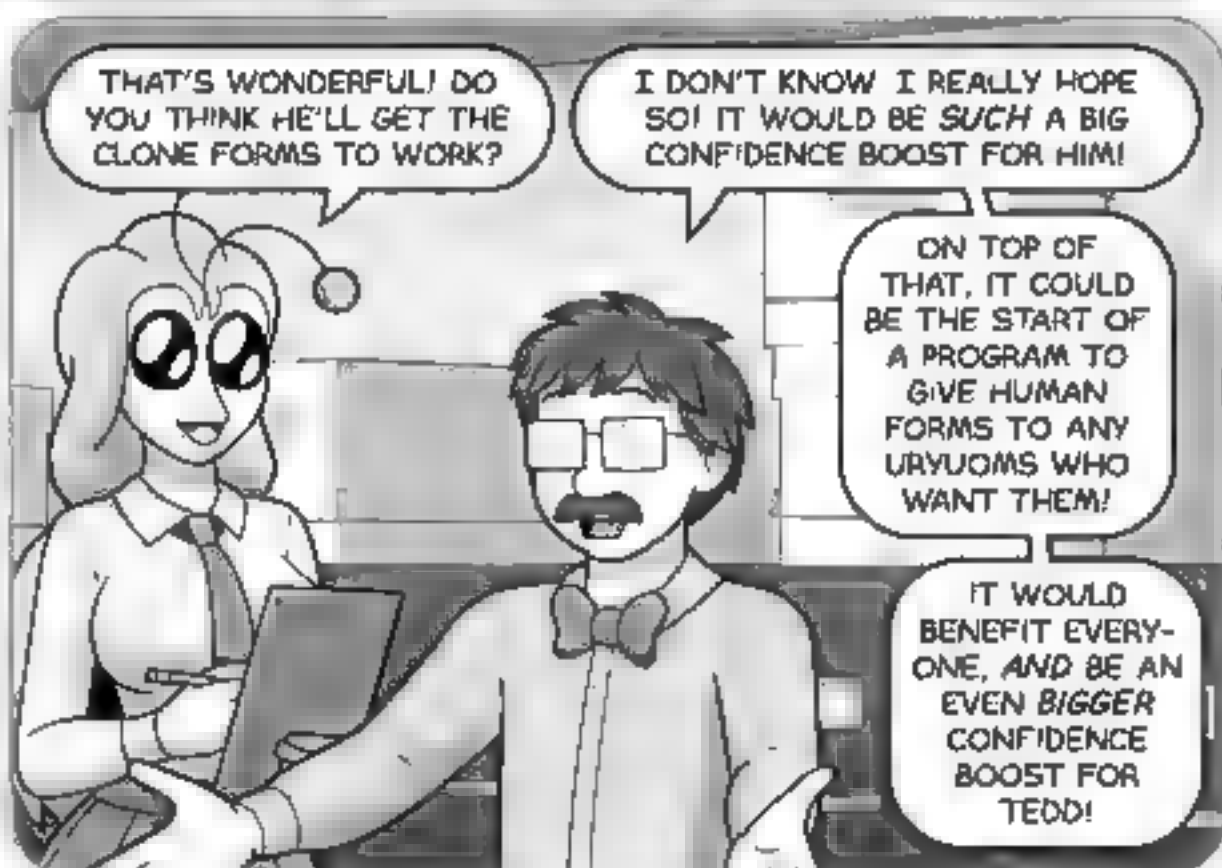
IT'S AMAZING
JUST HOW MUCH
MORE HE'S
TALKING!

AND EVEN WHEN HE'S
NOT TALKING, HE'S
SLOUCHING LESS, MAKING
BETTER EYE CONTACT...

AND HIS
GRADES!



I WAS WORRIED
ABOUT THE COSMETIC
MORPHING DEVICE BEING
A DISTRACTION, BUT HIS
GRADES ARE BETTER
THAN EVER!



THAT'S WONDERFUL! DO
YOU THINK HE'LL GET THE
CLONE FORMS TO WORK?

I DON'T KNOW I REALLY HOPE
SO! IT WOULD BE *SUCH* A BIG
CONFIDENCE BOOST FOR HIM!

ON TOP OF
THAT, IT COULD
BE THE START OF
A PROGRAM TO
GIVE HUMAN
FORMS TO ANY
URYUOMS WHO
WANT THEM!

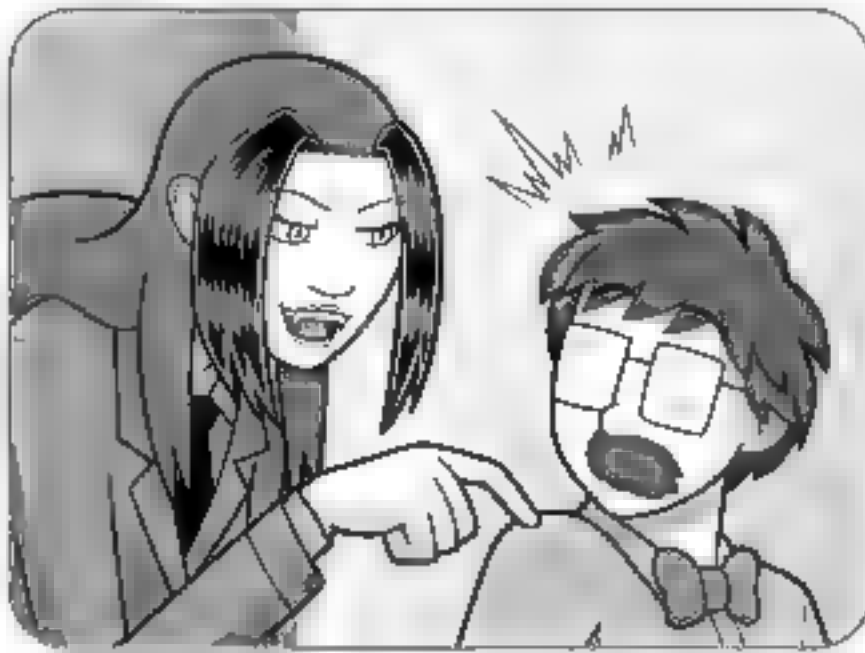
IT WOULD
BENEFIT EVERY-
ONE, AND BE AN
EVEN *BIGGER*
CONFIDENCE
BOOST FOR
TEDD!



OF COURSE IF TEDD *DOES*
SUCCEED, THEY'LL PROBABLY
WANT THE TF GUN BACK,

EVEN IF TEDD DOESN'T
THEY'RE GOING TO WANT IT
BACK *EVENTUALLY*. HM.

I NEED TO MAKE SURE
TEDD CAN BUILD ANOTHER
ONE BEFORE *EITHER* OF
THOSE THINGS HAPPEN.



YOU... WANTED
TO SEE ME SIR?



IT HAS COME TO
MY ATTENTION
THAT YOU HAVE
GIVEN YOUR SON
ACCESS TO ALIEN
TECHNOLOGY

DROP
EVERYTHING
AND GO
HOME.

YOU ARE TO IMMEDIATELY TAKE
THE TECHNOLOGY AWAY FROM HIM.

AS SOON AS YOU SEE
HIM AGAIN, YOU WILL MAKE
HIM SWEAR TO NEVER
SPEAK OF IT AGAIN

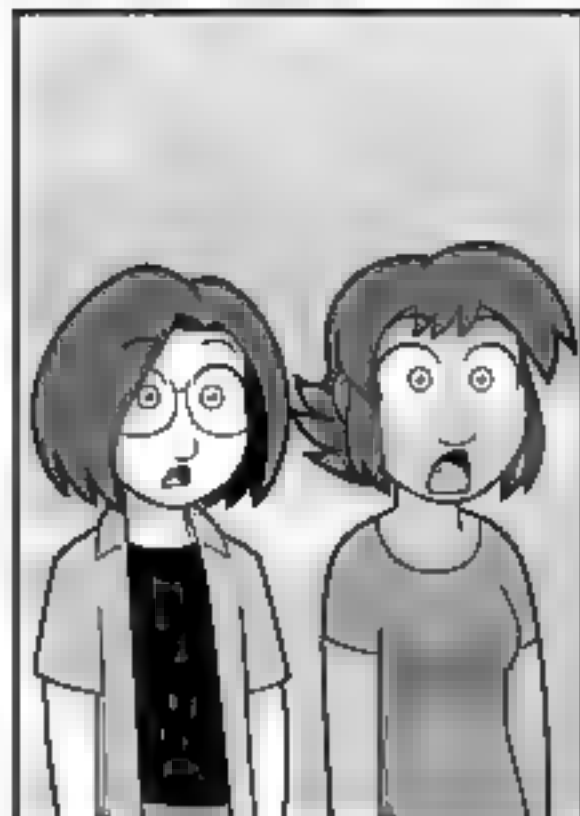
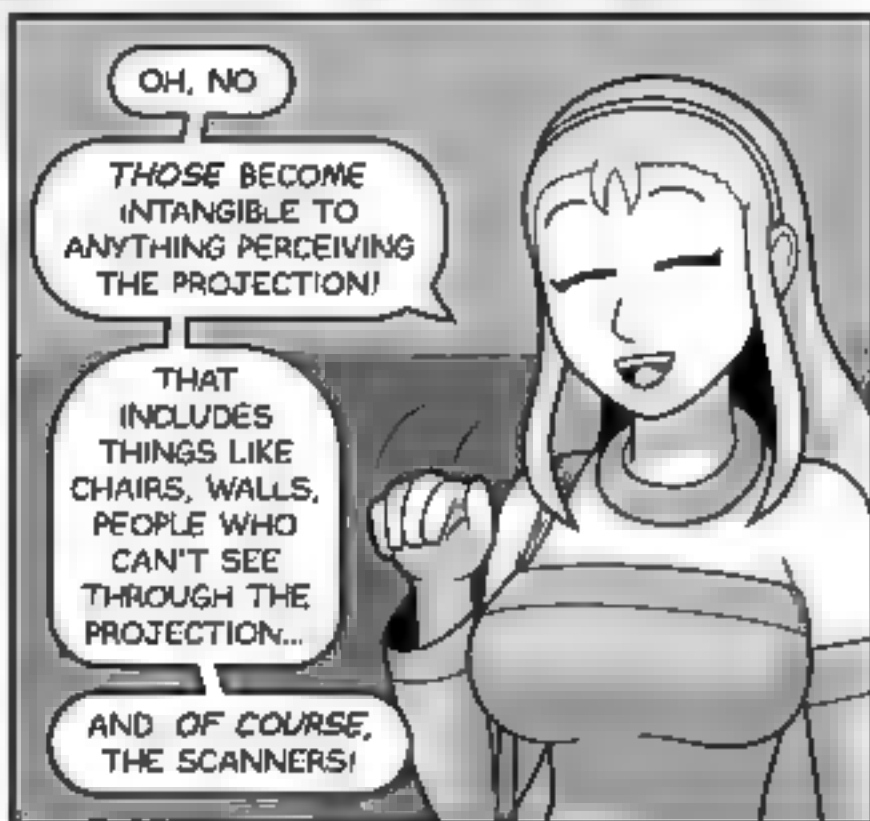


FAIL
TO DO
THIS..

...AND WE WILL
DO IT FOR YOU

AFTER THAT
NOT EVEN YOUR
CONNECTIONS WILL
SAVE YOU FROM THE
CONSEQUENCES.





WAIT SORRY!
THAT WAS
MISLEADING.
IT'S NOT
SPECIFICALLY
THE TAIL AND
ANTENNAE.

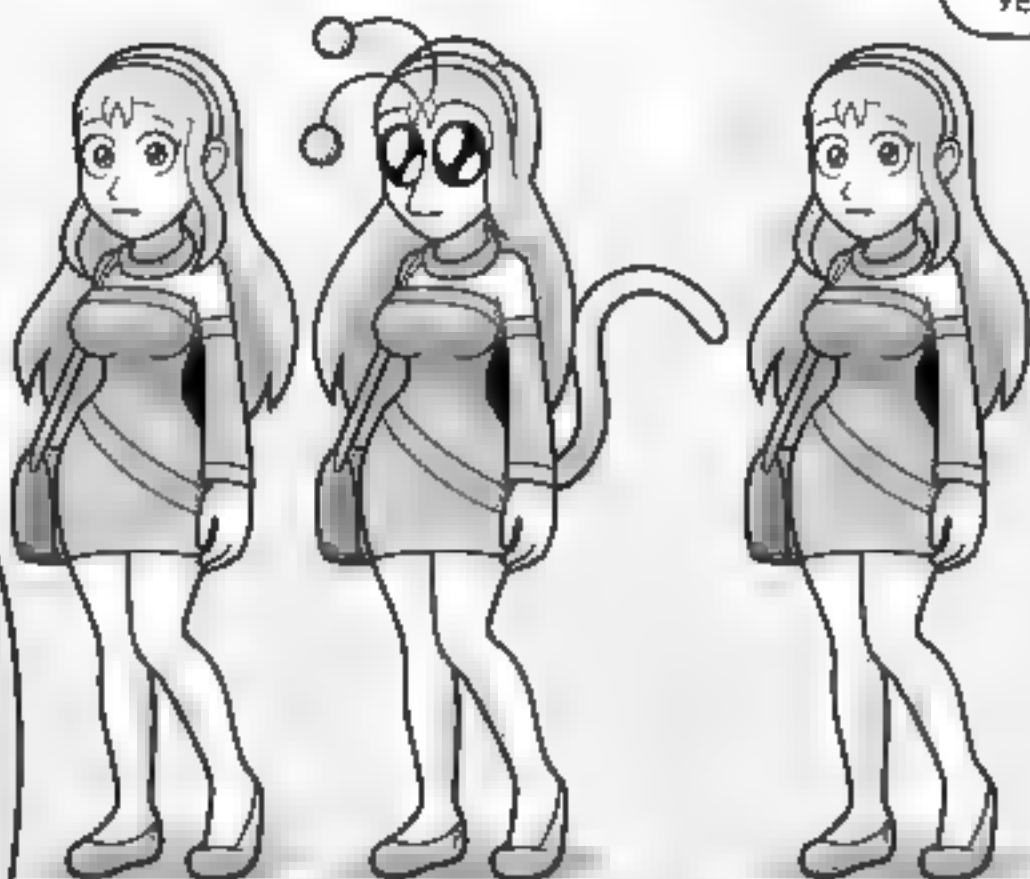
IT'S THE ENTIRE
ACTUAL FORM THAT
BECOMES INTANGIBLE
WHILE USING A
PROJECTION!

UNLESS
SOMEONE SEES
THROUGH THE
PROJECTION...

...IN WHICH CASE, THE
PROJECTION CAN'T BE TOUCHED
BUT THE ACTUAL FORM CAN BE!

BY THEM, I MEAN.

SIMPLER,
YEAH?



Projection | | Actual Form

Layered Comparison

SO IT'S LIKE EXISTING IN TWO
FORMS AT THE SAME TIME, AND
ANY PERSON OR THING CAN ONLY
INTERACT WITH ONE AT A TIME...

AND WHICH ONE THEY
INTERACT WITH IS BASED
ON PERCEPTION...

EXCEPT IT'S NOT, BECAUSE
INANIMATE OBJECTS INTERACT
WITH THE PROJECTION?

UNLESS...



DO CHAIRS HAVE
PERCEPTION?!

TEDD I KNOW IT'S VERY
INTERESTING, BUT PLEASE DON'T
OVERTHINK IT RIGHT NOW THIS
DINNER ISN'T ABOUT THAT

IT'S ABOUT YOU GRACE,
AND LAVENDER GETTING TO
KNOW ONE ANOTHER.

ALSO PEOPLE MIGHT
OVERHEAR AND WE
HAVEN'T SETTLED ON
A FAKE BOOK SERIES
TO SAY IT'S FROM



RIGHT OF COURSE

I CAN DEFINITELY
CONTROL WHAT MY
BRAIN FOCUSES ON.



IS EXISTING IN TWO STATES
AT THE SAME TIME QUANTUM
PHYSICS? IT SOUNDS LIKE
QUANTUM PHYSICS BUT I DON'T
ACTUALLY KNOW QUANTUM
PHYSICS. OTHER PEOPLE KNOW
QUANTUM PHYSICS, THOUGH,
AND THEY HAVEN'T SOLVED IT.
SO IT'S PROBABLY NOT
QUANTUM PHYSICS? I
SHOULDN'T JUST ASSUME
IT'S NOT QUANTUM PHYSICS,
HOWEVER, SO I SHOULD
PROBABLY LEARN QUANTUM
PHYSICS. JUST IN CASE



After Dinner

I LIKE
LAVENDER!

I'M GOING
TO NEED MORE
TIME TO FORM
AN OPINION.

THAT'S
UNDERSTANDABLE
SHE IS MARRYING
YOUR DAD.

OH, NO, IT'S NOT THAT
IT'S THAT MY MIND'S KIND
OF ALL OVER THE PLACE

IT'S HARD TO HAVE A REAL
OPINION ABOUT HER WITH EVERY
THING ELSE BOUNCING AROUND

EVEN SO, THAT TRICK OF YOURS
REALLY HELPED. THANKS.

YOU'RE WELCOME! IT'S
CALLED "STIMMING." PLENTY
OF PEOPLE DO IT WITHOUT
EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT.
BUT DOING IT ON PURPOSE
CAN BE HELPFUL, TOO!

NEAT I'LL HAVE TO
KEEP THAT IN MIND
COME TO THINK OF
IT, I TEND TO MOVE
MY LEGS WHILE
PROGRAMMING...

SO, THINKING
A LOT ABOUT
PROJECTIONS?

PROJECTIONS,
URYUOM HISTORY,
THE CLONE FORM
PROGRAM, AND
WELL, UH.

AN IRRATIONAL FEELING OF
INADEQUACY WHEN COMPARING
LAVENDER'S APPEARANCE TO
MY DEFAULT GIRL FORM.

YOUR
GIRL
FORM IS
CUTE!

YES.
VERY, VERY
"CUTE."

ADORABLE!

IT'S A LITTLE
MEAN, BUT I
ENJOY FANTASY
BOOKS. I GET A
KICK OUT OF
HOW **WRONG**
THE MAGIC
SYSTEMS ARE!

BUT THEN I GET ATTACHED TO THE
CHARACTERS. AND SUDDENLY I'VE READ
THE ENTIRE SERIES. AND AM CHECKING
RELEASE DATES FOR FUTURE VOLUMES...

...I STARTED PROGRAMMING
TO MOD COMPUTER GAMES.

I WANTED TO MAKE
ADJUSTMENTS. ADD IN MY OWN
WEAPONS AND SPELLS...

MY FIRST TF GUN WAS
TECHNICALLY A VIDEO GAME
MOD THAT KINDA WORKED?

I GOT THE JOB
PRETTY NATURALLY
SEE A LOT OF
PEOPLE LIKE ME WORK
IN GOVERNMENT,
WHICH CONSPIRACY
THEORISTS WOULD
FREAK OUT ABOUT

...BUT IT'S JUST
ONE OF THE
EASIEST WAYS
TO FIND A PLACE
TO WORK WHERE
WE'RE NOT
CONSTANTLY
HIDING WHAT
WE ARE YOU
KNOW?

...I READ A LOT
ABOUT HUMAN
PSYCHOLOGY

OOH, ARE
YOU THINKING
OF BECOMING A
THERAPIST?

EVERYONE ASKS THAT ... NO I JUST
THINK PEOPLE ARE **CONFUSING**, AND I
WANT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEM.

HA! NO. IT'S OKAY,
GRACE I DON'T MIND

I'M NATURALLY TALL.
MOST OF ONE SIDE
OF MY FAMILY IS.

WE **THINK** ONE
OR MORE OF OUR
ANCESTORS MIGHT'VE
BEEN... **DIFFERENT**
FROM THE REST

SOME OTHER
ASPECTS OF MY
CHOSEN FORM MIGHT
BE A LITTLE... **LESS**
NATURAL.

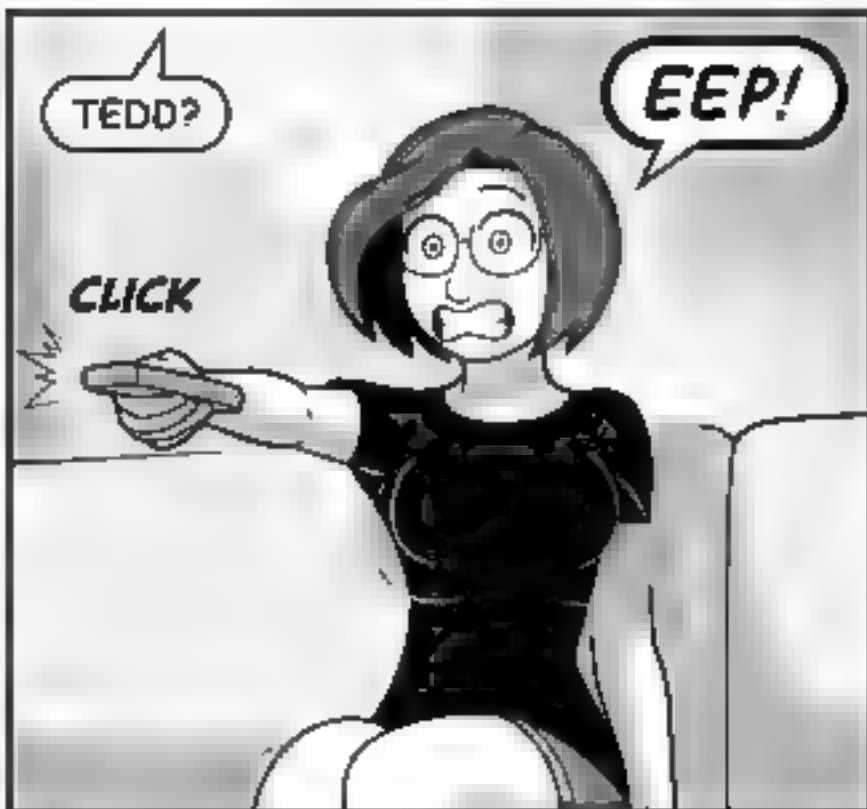
DON'T ASK IF SHE
SPECIFICALLY CHOSE
HER FIGURE, OR IF
THAT WAS JUST THE
RESULT SHE GOT
WHEN USING THE
DEFAULT FEMINE
FORM, NO MATTER
HOW FASCINATED
YOU WOULD BE BY
THE ANSWER BEING
THE LATTER!

SERIOUSLY, WHAT
DECIDES THAT???



WAVELENGTHS.

HM.



TEDD?

EEP!

CLICK



I PRINTED OUT
WHAT LITTLE
WE THINK WE
KNOW ABOUT
PROJECTIONS.

NONE OF THIS
IS HOW THEY
WORK. NO ONE
KNOWS THAT...

...BUT THIS IS
WHAT WE THINK
THEY CAN, AND
CAN'T, DO.



I FIGURED GIVING THIS
TO YOU TONIGHT WOULD BE
LESS DISRUPTIVE TO YOUR
SLEEP THAN LEAVING YOU
TO SPECULATE



THAT'S...
PROBABLY
TRUE. THANK
YOU

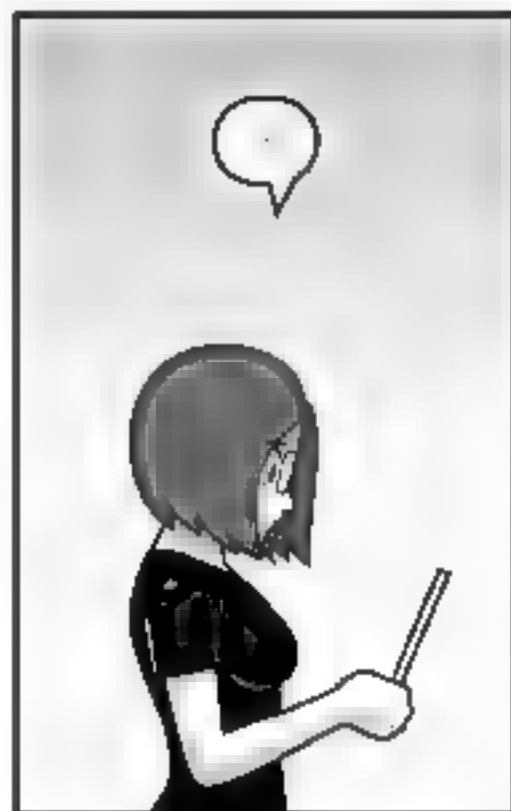
YOU'RE WELCOME
JUST REMEMBER: GET
ENOUGH SLEEP, OKAY?

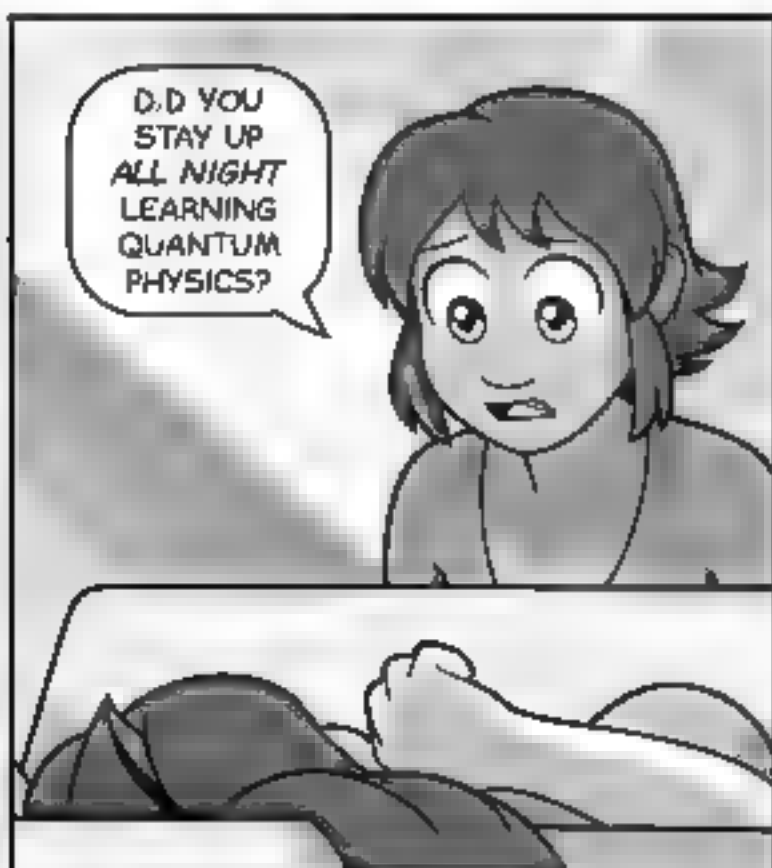


RIGHT OF
COURSE

GOOD NIGHT TEDD.

GOOD
NIGHT







YOU SHOULD SLEEP IN A BED.

I KNOW I KNOW... I SHOULD SLEEP IN MY OWN BED. NOT ON A SOFA...

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE YOUR BED



I JUST REALLY FELL INTO A QUANTUM PHYSICS RABBIT HOLE.

WHILE SOME TIMES HAVING BUNNY EARS!



PROBABLY I WASN'T CHECKING.

WHAT REALLY KEPT ME UP WAS SOME VIDEOS CONTRADICTING OTHER VIDEOS, AND SORTING OUT WHAT THE ACTUAL FACTS WERE.

IMPORTANT FACTS?



UH.. NO. NOT REALLY

I'D ALREADY DECIDED URYUOM PROJECTIONS AREN'T A QUANTUM PHYSICS THING.

THERE IS JUST STUFF THAT SOUNDS SIMILAR.



BUT KNOWING WHICH QUANTUM PHYSICS FACTS WERE FACTS WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SLEEP?

I KEPT THINKING I JUST NEEDED ONE MORE MINUTE TO SORT IT OUT!



"Projection Disguise" Framework for Table-Top RolePlaying Games

Projections let the user mimic another existing, compatible species without transforming. The result is like an illusion, but to people who see the "projection," it will seem very real, even to the touch

Projections affect reflected surfaces, and things like camera photos.

If something is hidden by the projection, it will be intangible to anyone, or anything, that can't see through the projection.

Projected species needs a similar torso, and equal limbs in type and number. Tails (or no tails) are fine. Finger and toe counts can change.

Could TF gun cheat this?

User cannot mimic a species the user has not been around before.

The proportions of the projection, such as height, limb length, weight, etc., will match the user's true form. No height / figure changes.

The appearance of the projection is automatic, keeping the form close to 1:1 (excepting, obviously, the difference in species).

Changes to makeup and hairstyles are automatic, but will match the user's expectations for how the hair and makeup they actually have would look on the different species. Explain.

User sees themselves as the projection while using the projection. If using a projection, and someone interacts with their true form, user sees an overlap of their true form and the projection.

Some people can see through projections without even trying, but the vast majority of people can't (this gives the game master an out if they REALLY need an NPC to see through projections. Don't abuse.

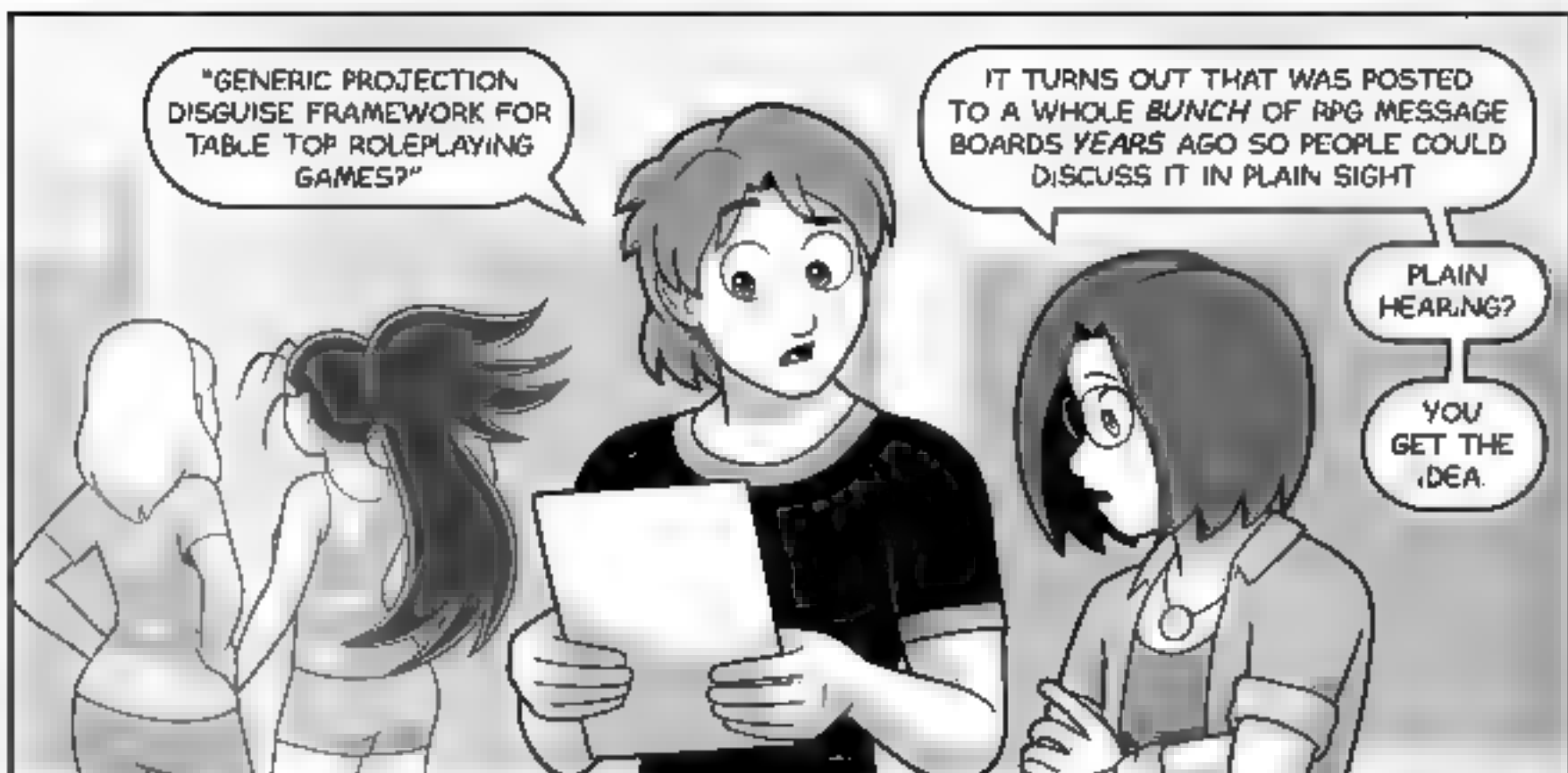
Someone who is already aware of what the user actually is, or at least has a general idea, will see through the user's projection

"GENERIC PROJECTION
DISGUISE FRAMEWORK FOR
TABLE TOP ROLEPLAYING
GAMES?"

IT TURNS OUT THAT WAS POSTED
TO A WHOLE BUNCH OF RPG MESSAGE
BOARDS YEARS AGO SO PEOPLE COULD
DISCUSS IT IN PLAIN SIGHT

PLAIN
HEARING?

YOU
GET THE
IDEA.

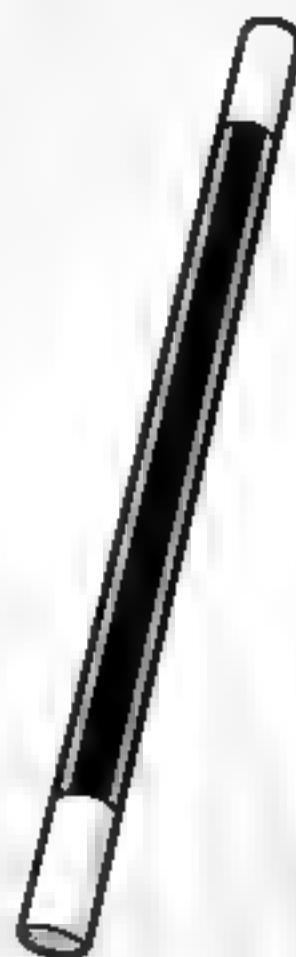






OF COURSE I DON'T!

I AM A TRAINING WAND FOR WIZARDS!



AND SARAH.

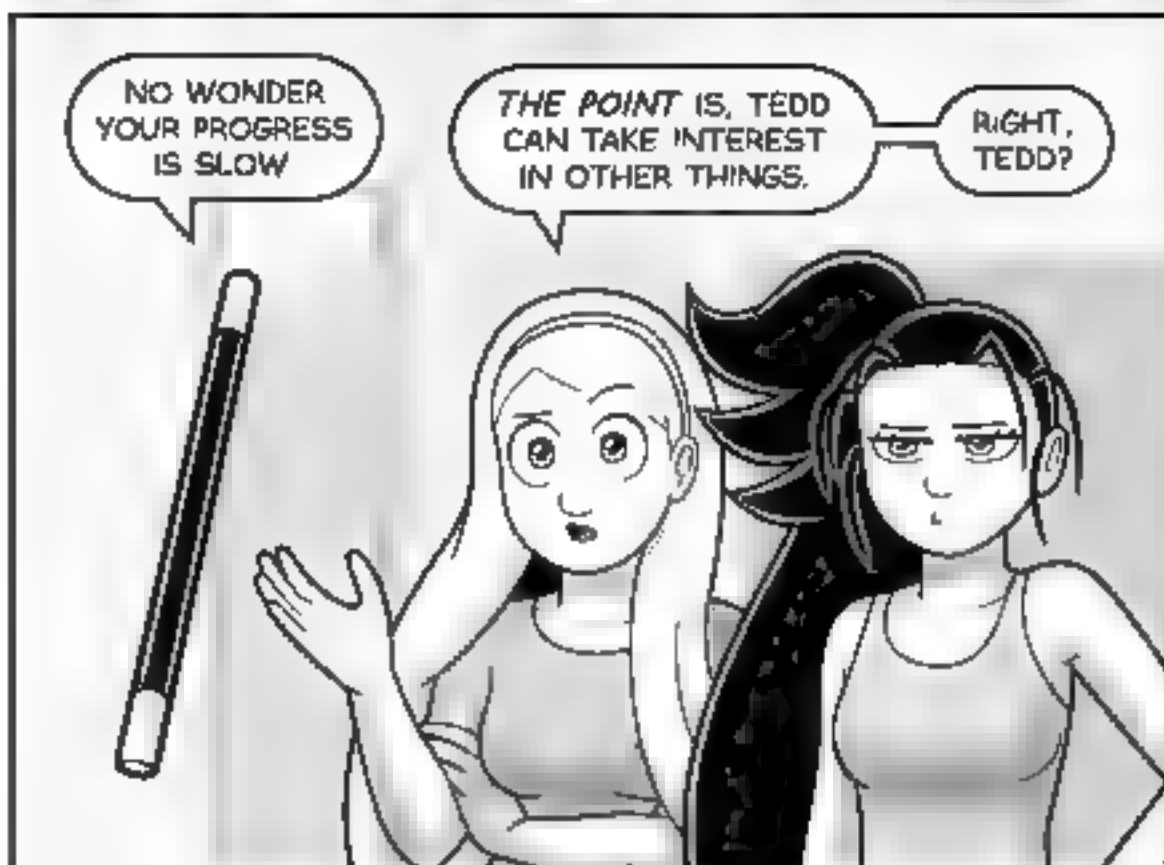
MY PURPOSE IS TO TEACH MAGIC..

STRENGTHEN MAGIC

AND TO IMPART VALUES IMPORTANT TO MY CREATOR!

SPEAKING OF WHICH..





PERSISTENT
DEFAULT
FORMS WE
ALWAYS
RETURN
TO...

DEFAULT FORM HAIR STILL
GROWING EVEN IF YOU KEEP
YOUR HAIR SHORT WITH AN
ENCHANTED FORM...

INTERDIMENSIONAL, AMBIENT-
MAGIC-EATING CREATURES
EXISTING BEYOND OUR ABILITY
TO SEE OR TOUCH...

AN ALTERNATE
UNIVERSE VERSION OF
ELLIOT EFFECTIVELY
EXISTING AS A
GHOST...

IMMORTALS
BECOMING INVISIBLE,
BUT NO LONGER
INTANGIBLE, AS A
RESULT OF A "CLOSER
CONNECTION" TO THE
ENVIRONMENT...

VARIOUS
STATES OF
EXISTENCE
BOTH OF, AND
SEPARATE
FROM, OUR
PERCEPTION OF
REALITY, ALL
COEXISTING.

**LAYERS
OF REALITY!**

ARE URYUOM PROJECTIONS
REALLY ALL THAT DIFFERENT?

DO ALL THOSE
THINGS SHARE
A COMMON
MECHANISM?

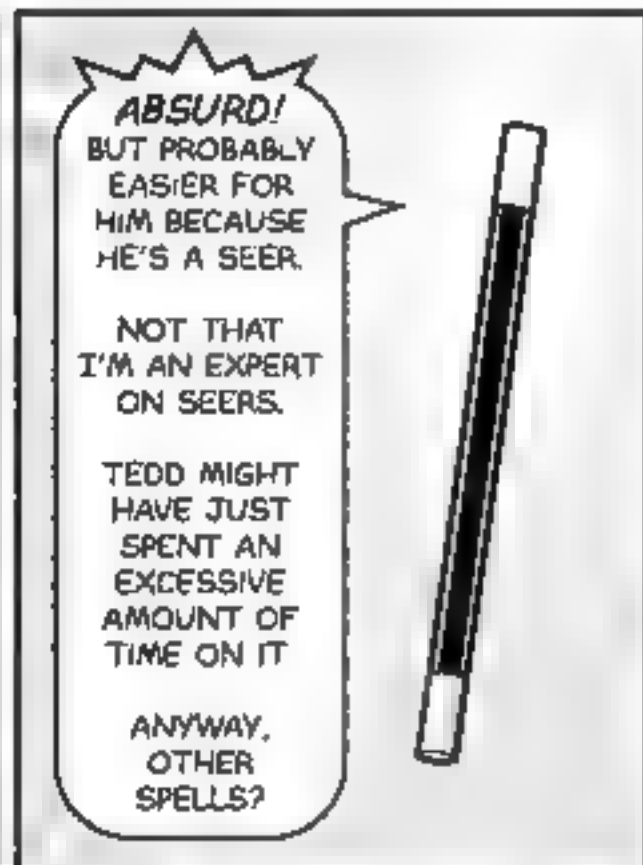
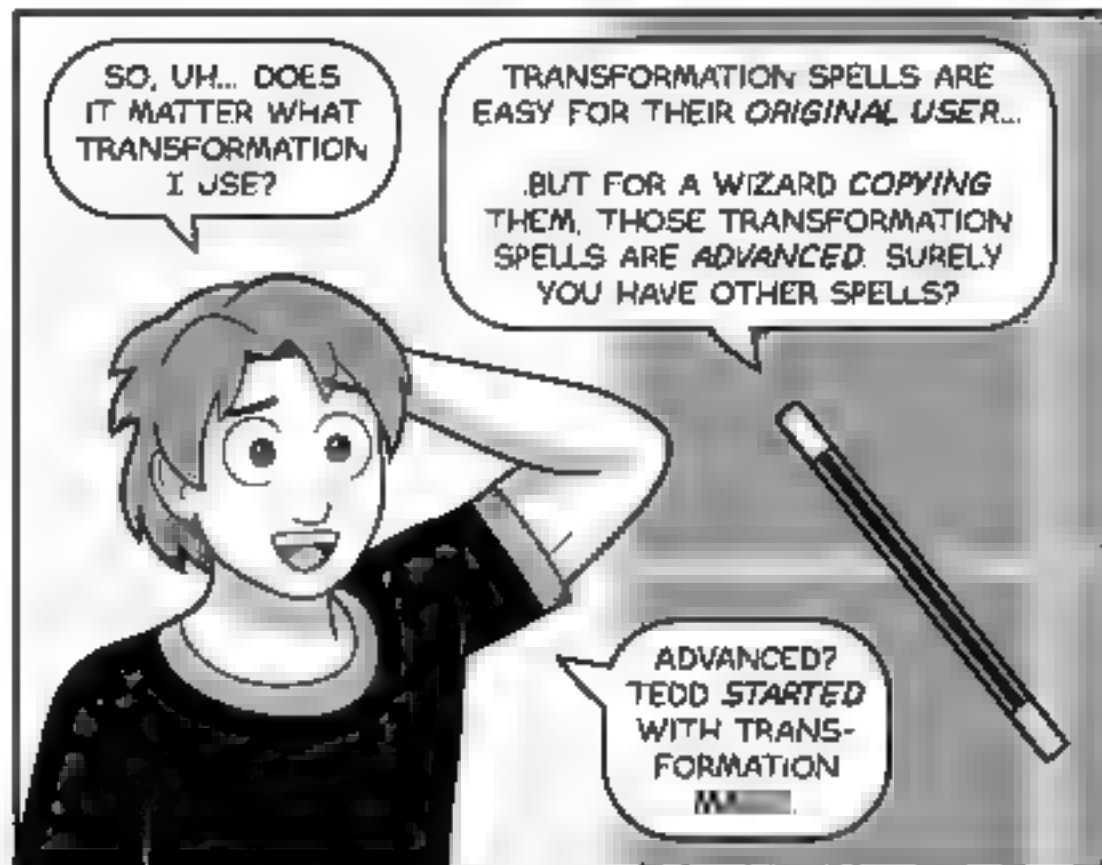
PROJECTIONS
INCLUDED?

THAT THOUGHT
ON ITS OWN IS
JUST A GUESS
ANYONE COULD
MAKE, BUT ..

IF THOSE ARE
ALL CONNECTED...

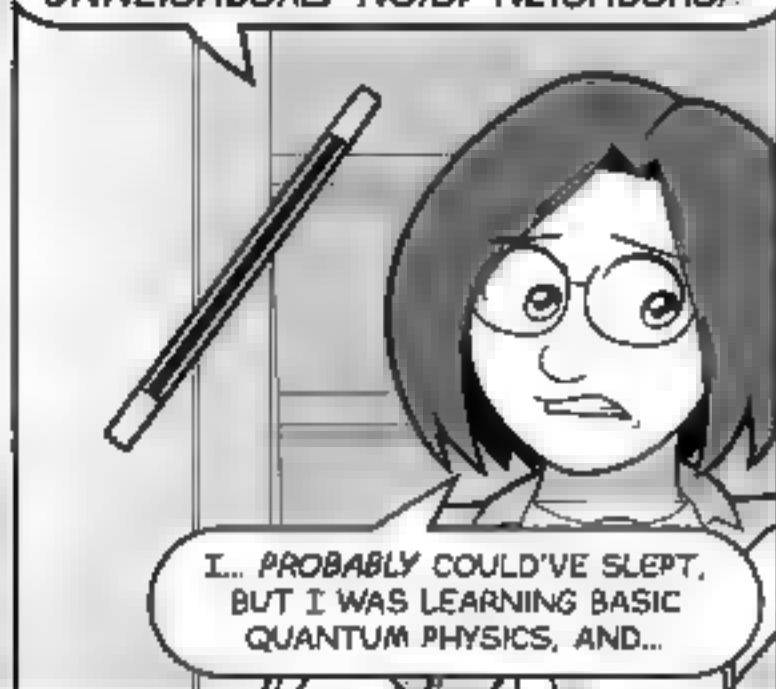
I HAVE A
TEST FOR
THAT!







COULD YOU NOT SLEEP DUE TO A MEDICAL CONDITION? SOME EMERGENCY SITUATION? **UNNEIGHBORLY NOISY NEIGHBORS?!**





MY CREATOR TAUGHT
ME A SINGLE WORD
OF JAPANESE

過労死
KARŌSHI.

**KRAK-A-
THOOM**

WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

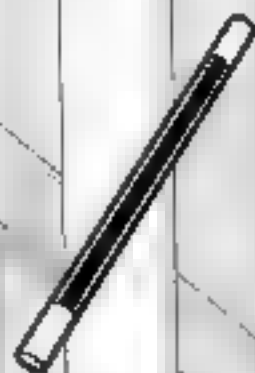
"GET ENOUGH SLEEP?"



IN A ROUND-
ABOUT WAY?

YES.

IT MEANS
DEATH FROM
OVERWORK



THAT'S.
WAY OVERLY
DRAMATIC

I'M NOT
OVERWORKED.
I JUST STAY
UP LATE
SOMETIMES,
BY CHOICE

OR FIXATION.



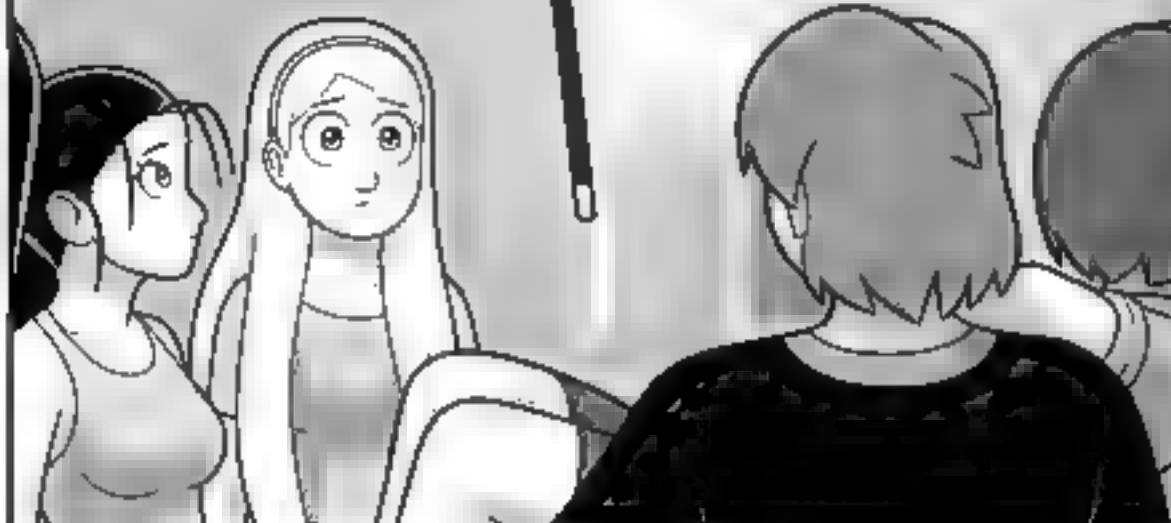
UNFORTUNATELY,
THE WORD EXISTS
FOR A REASON.

...AND THERE ARE MANY
NECESSARY HEALTH
BENEFITS TO REST, AND
SLEEP IN PARTICULAR.

NOT ONLY DO YOU NOT DO YOUR
BEST WORK WHEN TIRED, BUT A
LACK OF REST IS PHYSICALLY, AND
MENTALLY, DAMAGING.

HECK, THE BOYFRIEND
D'DN'T GET THOSE
MUSCLES HE'S SO
EASILY CARRYING YOU
WITH BY NOT GETTING
ENOUGH SLEEP!

**SLEEP IS FOR
THE STRONG!**



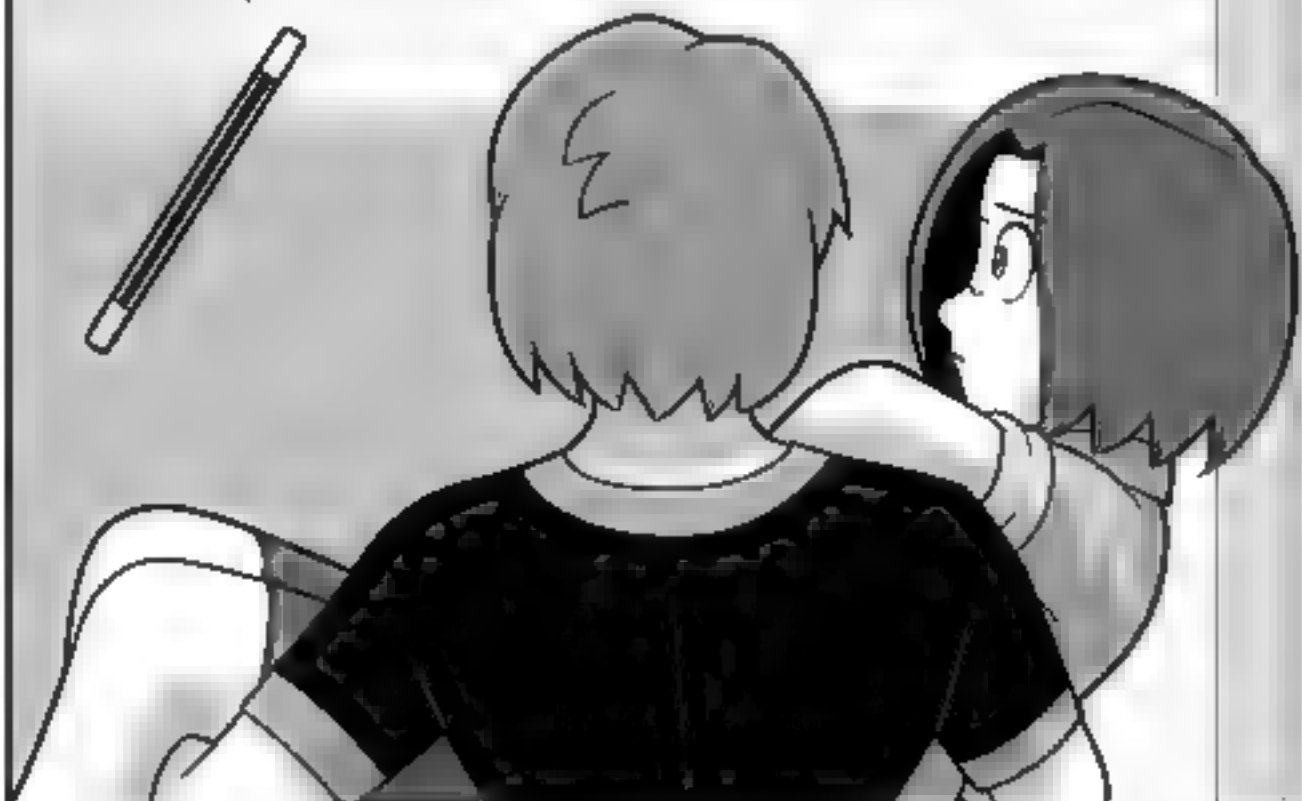
LOOK, I... APPRECIATE THE CONCERN, BUT I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING CLOSE TO THE SORT OF OVERWORK YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT



PERHAPS, BUT IT'S A BAD HABIT WITH THE POTENTIAL TO GET MUCH WORSE WHEN YOU'RE IN COLLEGE.

AT A MINIMUM, YOU SHOULD BE GETTING SIX HOURS OF SLEEP A NIGHT IDEALLY SEVEN TO EIGHT

ASSUMING MEDICAL RESEARCH HASN'T CHANGED THAT SINCE MY CREATION, TOO.



I AVERAGE... A NUMBER.

BUT SERIOUSLY, I'M...



I'LL REST MY EYES FOR A LITTLE BIT ON THE SOFA

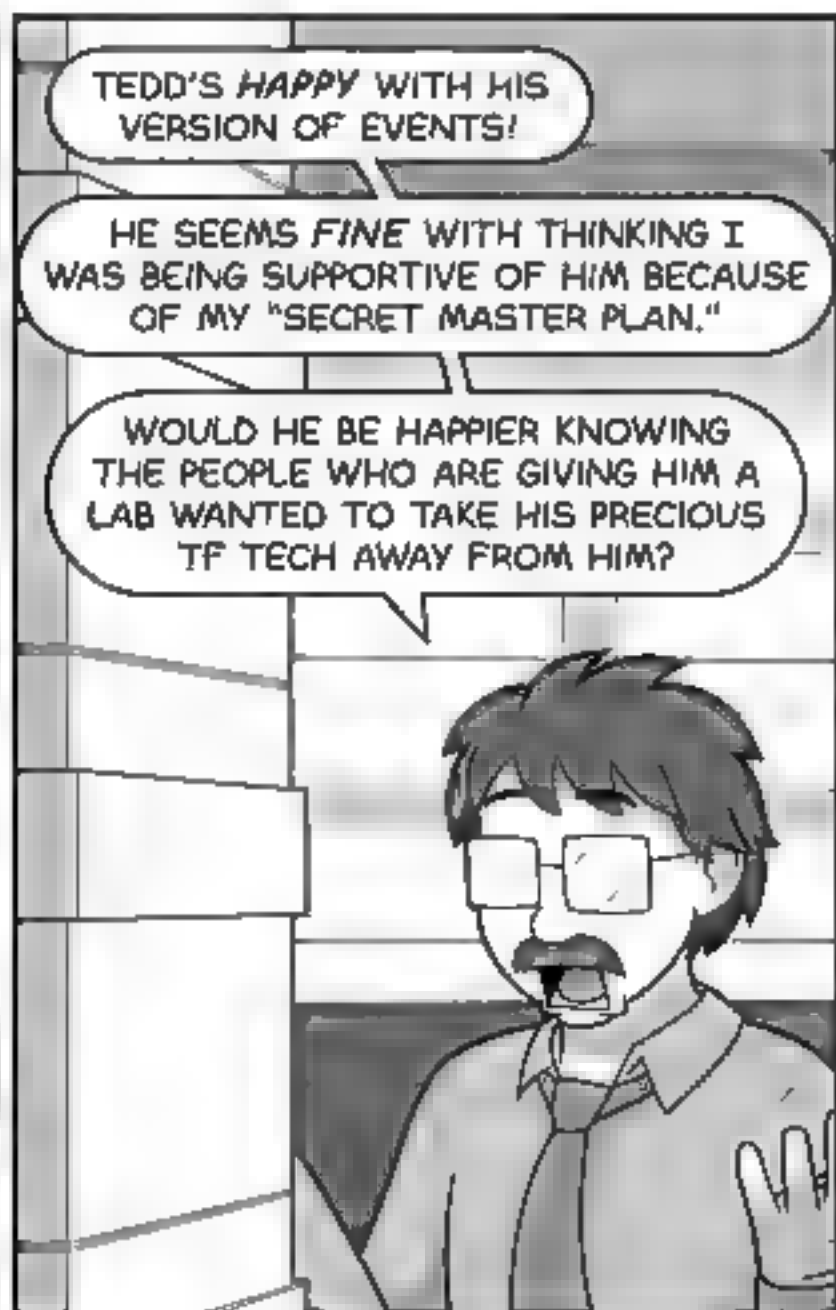
I'LL SET YOU DOWN THERE

I'M PRETTY SURE I CAN WALK.

I'LL SET YOU DOWN THERE.







Late afternoon, Monday

SIGH

AH! DAD!
YOU'RE HOME
IN TIME TO
SEE IT!

TO SEE WHAT?

AN EXPERIMENT
IN THE BASEMENT
WITH ELLIOT!

HE'S GOING
HOME SOON, SO
WE WERE ABOUT
TO DO IT!

AND YOU... WANT *ME* TO
SEE THIS EXPERIMENT?

YEAH! IF I GET THE RESULT I'M
HOPING FOR, IT WILL SUPPORT A
HYPOTHESIS THAT COULD CONNECT
SEVERAL THINGS RELATED TO MAGIC,
AND NOT-MAGIC, PREVIOUSLY
THOUGHT UNCONNECTED!

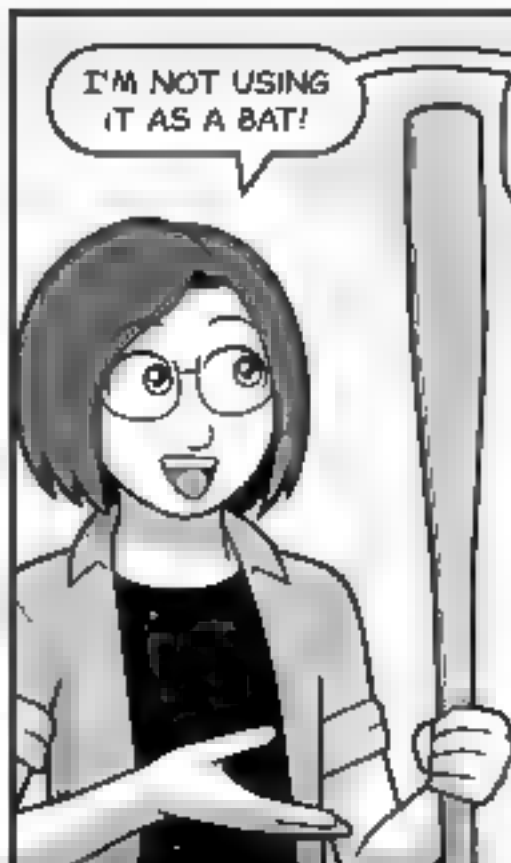
OH... KAY ...





OH! RIGHT
SORRY EXCITED
TO DO THIS.

THAT IS NOT
REASSURING WHILE
YOU ARE HOLDING
A BASEBALL BAT



I'M NOT USING
IT AS A BAT!

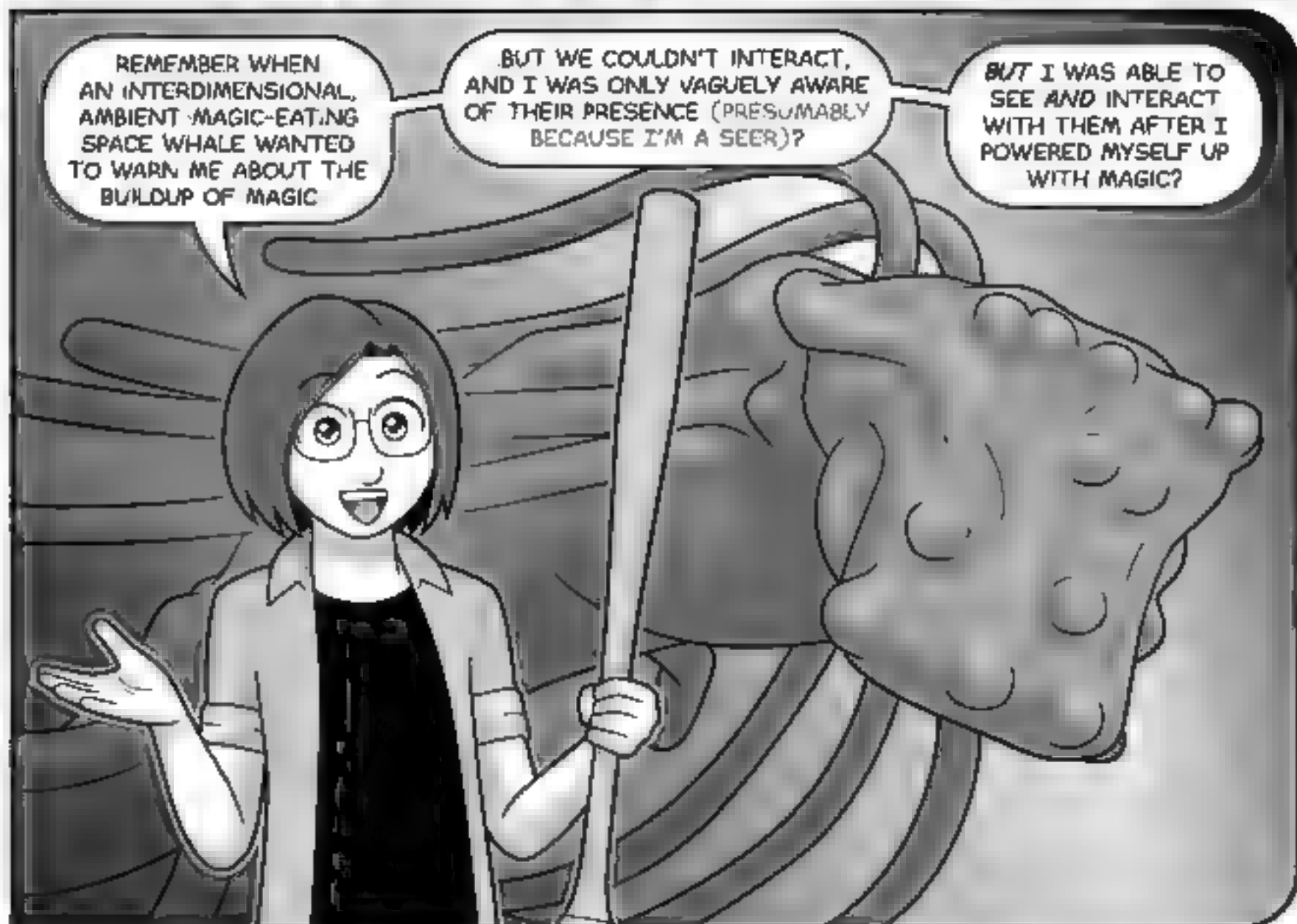
I JUST NEEDED
A BIG PIECE OF
WOOD TO STORE
MAGIC POWER IN!

I DO IT
ALL THE
TIME WITH
DRUMSTICK
WANDS SO
EVERYONE
CAN USE
THEM.

THIS ISN'T A
WAND, THOUGH.
I'M USING IT
MORE LIKE A
BATTERY



AND YOU NEED
A BASEBALL BAT
BATTERY FULL
OF MAGIC
BECAUSE...?



REMEMBER WHEN
AN INTERDIMENSIONAL,
AMBIENT MAGIC-EATING
SPACE WHALE WANTED
TO WARN ME ABOUT THE
BUILDUP OF MAGIC

BUT WE COULDN'T INTERACT,
AND I WAS ONLY VAGUELY AWARE
OF THEIR PRESENCE (PRESUMABLY
BECAUSE I'M A SEER)?

BUT I WAS ABLE TO
SEE AND INTERACT
WITH THEM AFTER I
POWERED MYSELF UP
WITH MAGIC?



I REMEMBER YOU ASKING
ME IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT
EXISTED, AND TELLING YOU
I'D NEVER HEARD OF THEM!

YOU NEVER SAID
ANYTHING ABOUT
MEETING ONE, OR
"POWERING UP"!



WHOOOPS.



IN MY DEFENSE, I CLEARLY THOUGHT I'D ALREADY TOLD YOU ABOUT THE INTERDIMENSIONAL SPACE WHALE...

AND, OBVIOUSLY I CAN TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THEM LATER.

~~SMH~~ SO YOU'VE DONE THIS "POWER UP" WITH THE BAT BEFORE?



SORT OF? NOT WITH THE BAT

LAST TIME, I STORED POWER IN A MODIFIED MOTION CONTROL GLOVE FOR VIDEO GAMES.

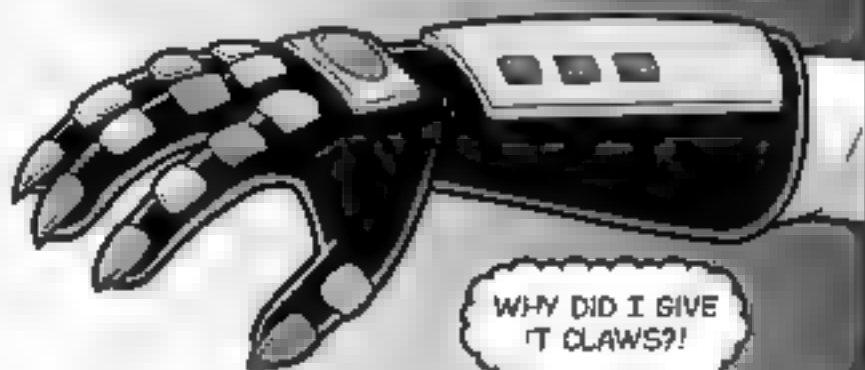
I THOUGHT I'D MODDED IT TO STORE UP POWER, BUT THAT WAS BEFORE I KNEW ABOUT BEING A SEER...



... AND I'M PRETTY SURE WHAT I ACTUALLY MADE WAS AN INEFFICIENT MAGIC BATTERY THAT ONLY WORKED BECAUSE I'M A SEER?

THE BASEBALL BAT BATTERY IS A MUCH SIMPLER SOLUTION WITH WAY MORE STORAGE CAPACITY

AND IT DOESN'T RESEMBLE LORD TEDD'S GAUNTLET, SO LESS CHANCE OF SPOOKING EVERYONE



WHY DID I GIVE IT CLAWS?!



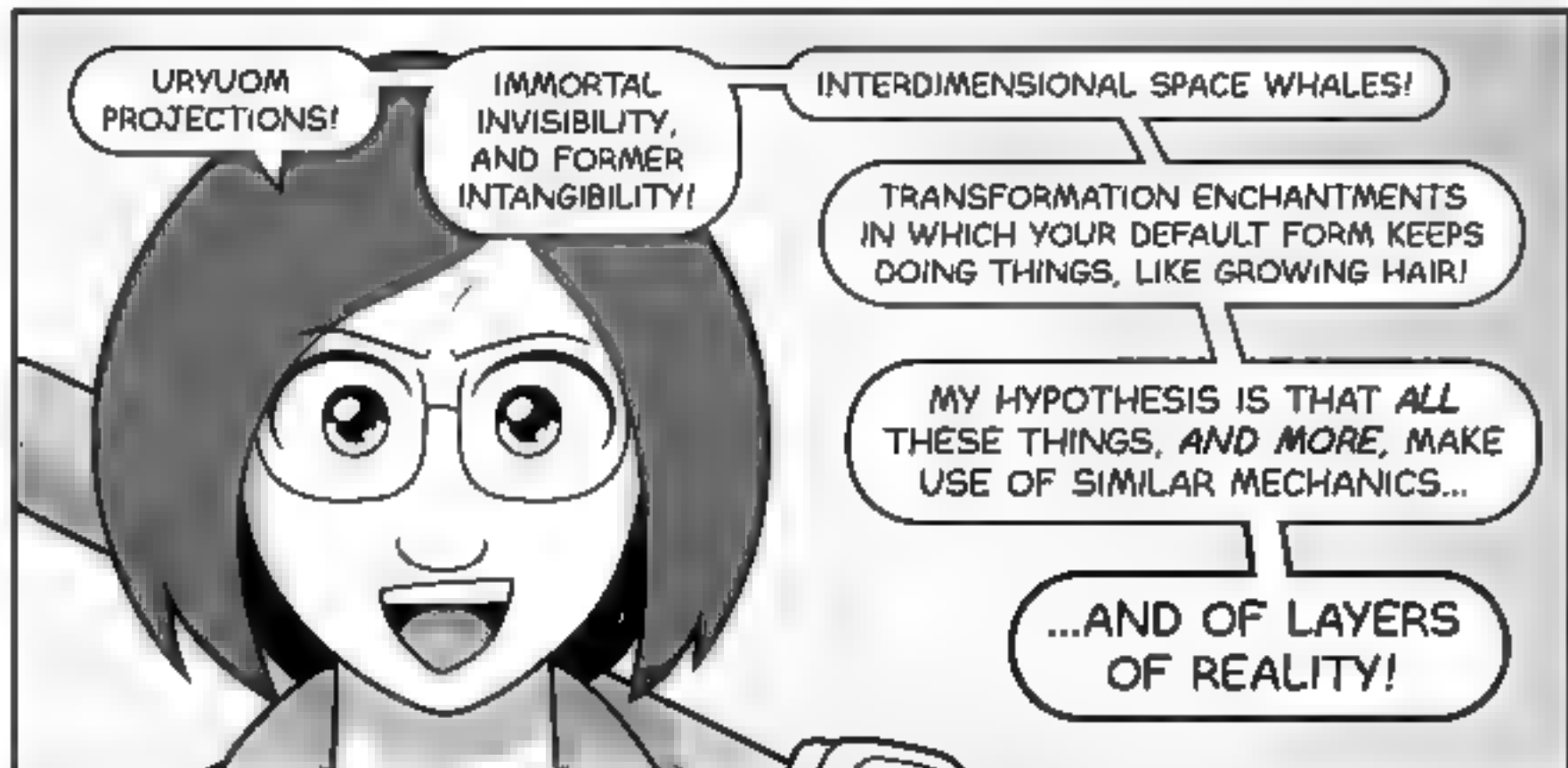
ANYWAY THE EXPERIMENT IS LITERALLY JUST ME POWERING UP AND LOOKING AT ELLIOT WHILE HE'S TRANSFORMED.

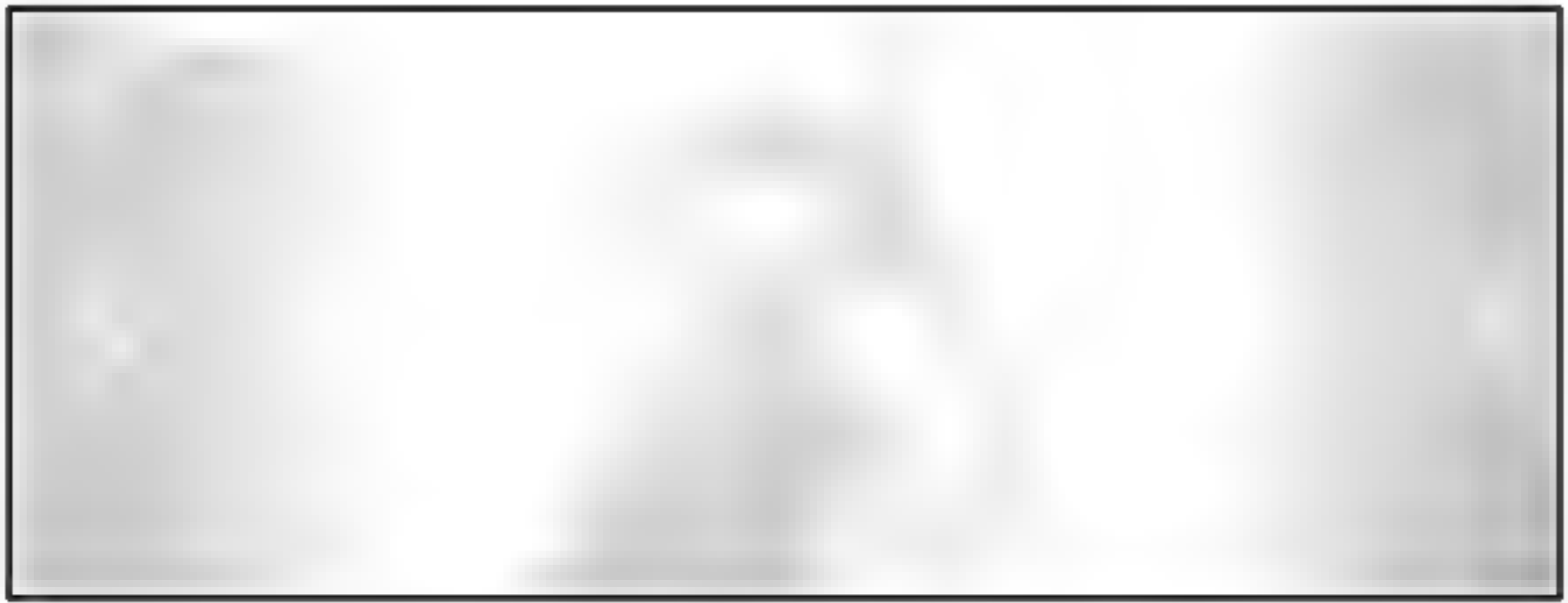
WHAT DOES THAT TEST?



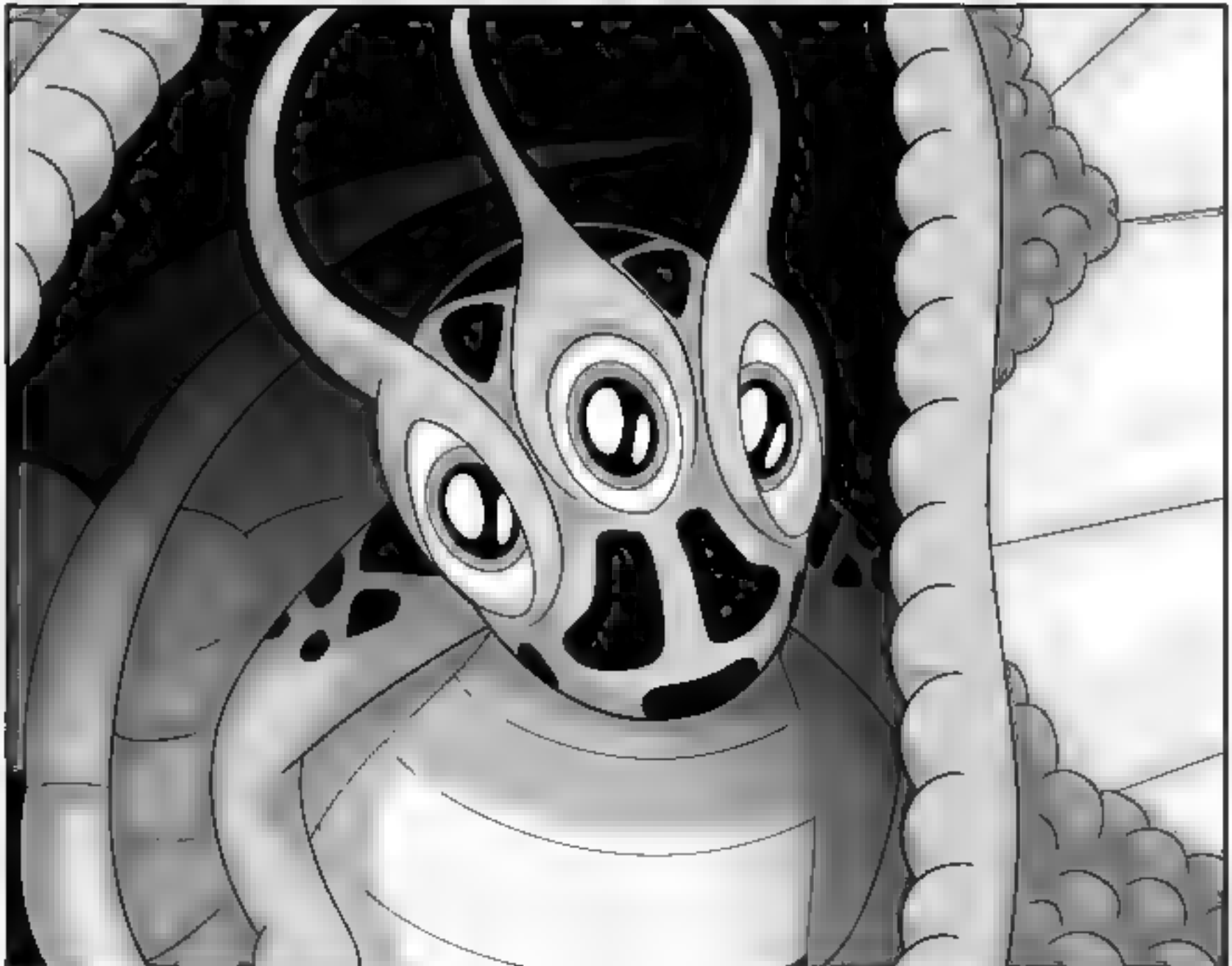
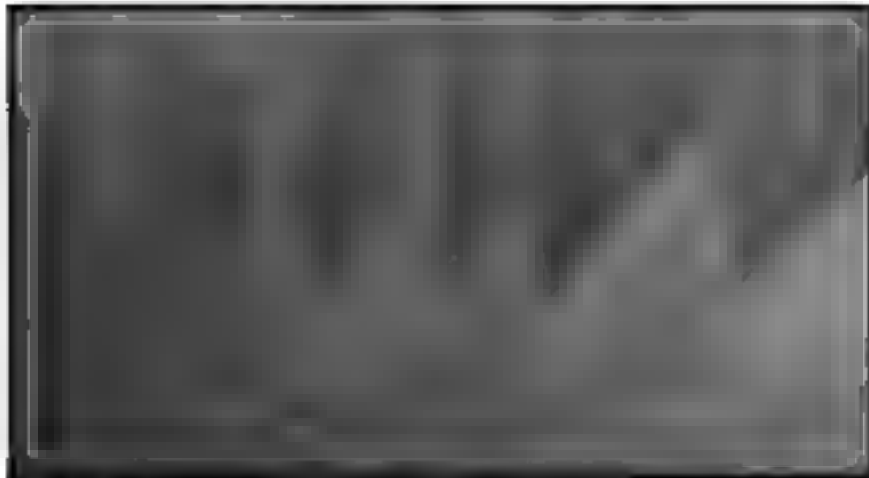
IF MY HYPOTHESIS IS CORRECT?

I MIGHT SEE ELLIOT'S DEFAULT FORM.

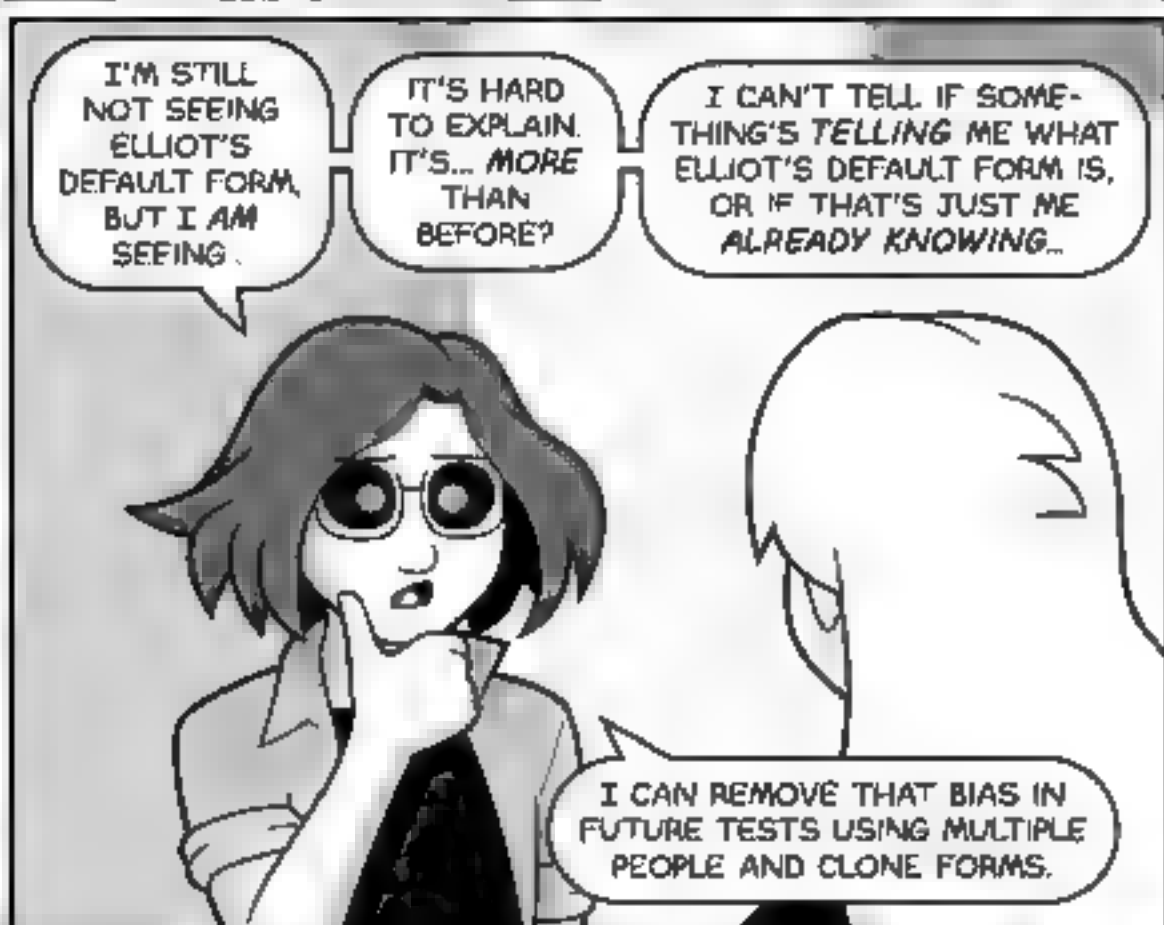




The Amazon Rainforest









I'M FINE! I'M FINE... I JUST..

THERE WAS A

A FLASH..



WHAT DO I DO?! I CAN'T CONTINUE THE EXPERIMENT! SOMETHING LIKE THAT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN!

FAILURE IS ALWAYS AN OPTION, BUT... I BROUGHT DAD DOWN HERE... I

I WANTED..



TEDD. YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROVE YOURSELF TO ME

YOU NEVER HAD TO PROVE YOURSELF TO ME.



I'M PROUD OF YOU, OF COURSE YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH, BUT..

I ONLY EVER WANTED YOU TO BE HAPPY



I DIDN'T AGREE TO YOU WORKING WITH URYUOM TECHNOLOGY BECAUSE DISTRIBUTING CLONE FORMS WAS MY END GAME

I DIDN'T THINK OF THAT IDEA UNTIL AFTER YOU'D HAD IT FOR A WHILE.

I JUST WANTED YOU TO BE HAPPY

I WILLFULLY FORGOT THAT IT WAS VERY MUCH AGAINST THE RULES TO LET YOU HAVE THAT TECHNOLOGY..

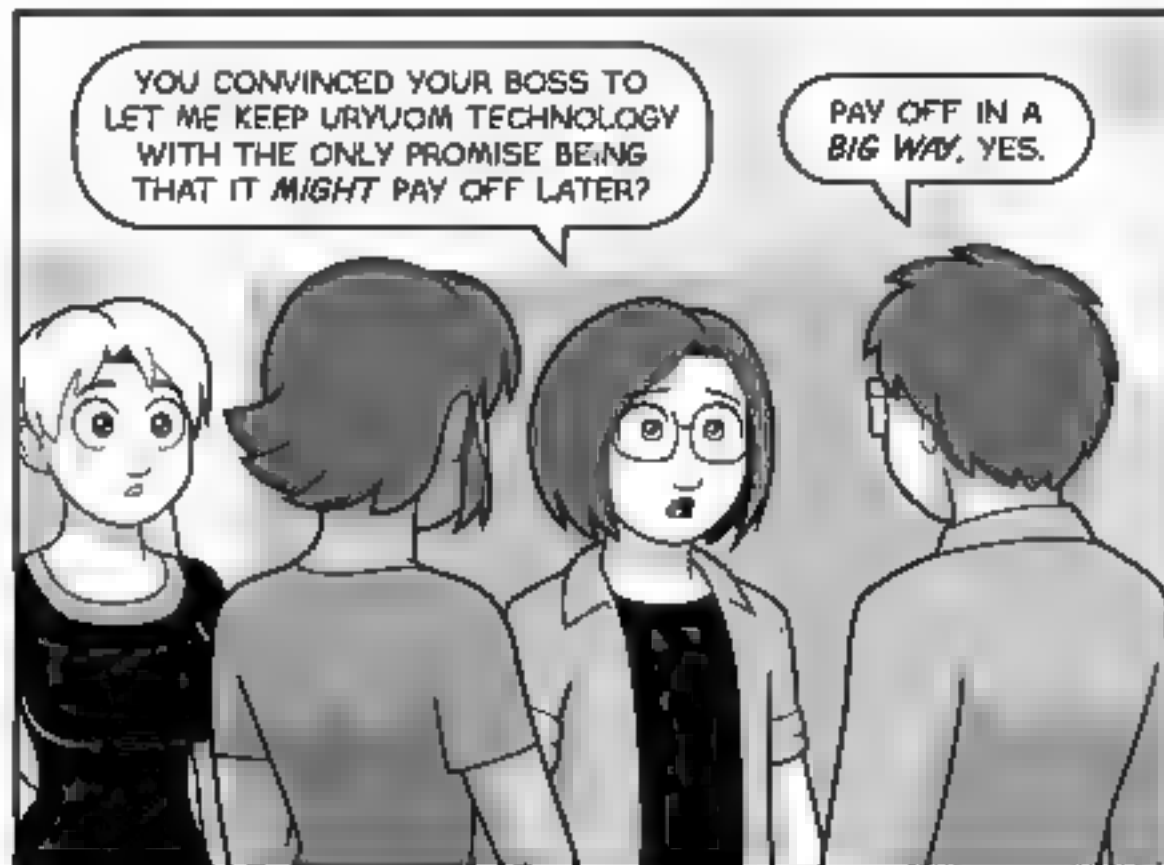
AND MY BOSS FOUND OUT



I NEVER TALKED TO YOU ABOUT DISTRIBUTING CLONE FORMS TO URYUOMS...

...BECAUSE I USED THAT IDEA AS A BARGAINING CHIP TO LET YOU KEEP THE TECHNOLOGY

NOT TELLING YOU WAS PART OF THE DEAL.





THAT... MAKES WAY MORE
SENSE THAN WHAT I ALWAYS
THOUGHT WAS TRUE.

THAT SOME OF YOUR
SECURITY CLEARANCE
EXTENDED TO ME.

WELL, IT SORT OF
DID, IN THE END.

THE DEAL GAVE YOU THE
CLEARANCE OF... I DON'T
KNOW A SPECIAL INTERN?

I GET THAT KEEPING THINGS FROM
ME WAS PART OF THE DEAL...

BUT ONCE YOU COULD
TELL ME YOU HAD TO MAKE
A DEAL, WHY DIDN'T YOU?

I'D BEEN WORRIED
ABOUT HOW YOU WERE
GOING TO TAKE THE NEWS
ABOUT THE URYUOM
CLONE FORMS.

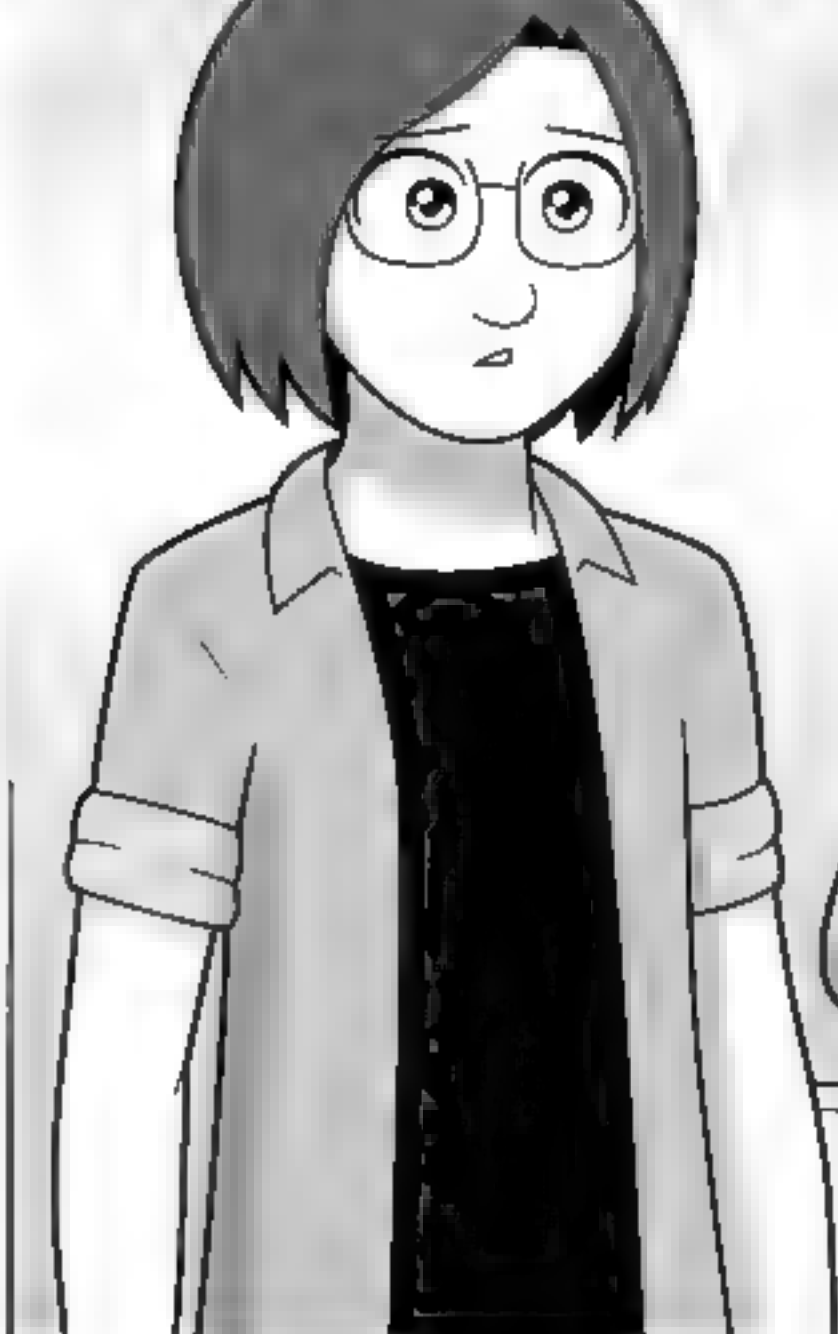
WHEN IT TURNED OUT
YOU WERE *HAPPY*, I...

I DIDN'T WANT
TO RUIN THAT

DON'T DO THAT DON'T...
NOT TELL ME THINGS I
SHOULD KNOW BECAUSE
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT
ME BEING HAPPY!

WHATEVER
IT IS, I'LL BE
HAPPIER THAT
YOU TALKED
TO ME!

AND I'M MUCH
HAPPIER KNOWING
WHAT YOU DID
FOR ME





I'M SORRY IF MY EYES GOING ALL BLACK SCARED YOU GUYS.

I DIDN'T KNOW THEY DID THAT ..

IT WAS STARTLING, BUT IT'S HARD TO BE SCARED WHEN IT'S YOU MAKING A TOTALLY CHILL "I'M DOING SCIENCE" FACE.

AND THERE HAD TO BE *SOME* EXPLANATION FOR.. ALL BLACK EYES, AND IT BEING A *SEER* THING MAKES SENSE!

WAY TOO CUTE.

WHAT WAS SCARY WAS WHEN YOU SAW A FLASH!

YEAH! THAT WAS SCARY!

YEAH, UM, ABOUT THAT ..

DAD DID GO UPSTAIRS, RIGHT?

YEAH.

WHY?

I DIDN'T SEE A FLASH OF LIGHT

I SAW THROUGH ELLIOT'S SHIRT



YOU. OH!

WELL...

THAT'S, AWKWARD, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU WERE TRYING TO...



WAIT "GAH?"

YOU SEE THROUGH MY SHIRT, AND THAT'S HOW YOU REACT? "GAH?"



WELL, YEAH? I WAS SURPRISED?

I KNOW, BUT "GAH" MAKES IT SOUND LIKE YOU WERE DISGUSTED!

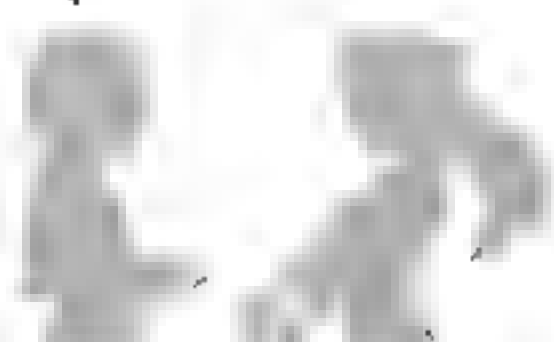
I WASN'T, I MEAN... WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO SAY?

I DUNNO! SOMETHING LIKE... "EEP!"

"EEP?"

YEAH! "EEP" IS JUST A SURPRISED NOISE!

"EEP" CAN DEFINITELY MEAN MORE THAN THAT!



WHILE AVERTING YOUR EYES WAS APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION, TEDD, YOUR CHOICE OF "GAH" HAS MADE ELLIOT FEEL UNATTRACTIVE.

I DIDN'T CHOOSE "GAH!" AND THAT'S RIDICULOUS! ELLIOT'S VERY ATTRACTIVE!



I MEAN, UH...

IT'STH FINE THANKSTH



Later
that
night

MY PRIMARY
HYPOTHESIS
HASN'T BEEN
SUPPORTED,
BUT IT ALSO
HASN'T BEEN
DISPROVEN.

I DON'T KNOW HOW
I WAS ABLE TO SEE THE
INTERDIMENSIONAL SPACE
WHALE, AND THERE'S THE
X-FACTOR THAT THEY
WERE TRYING TO
CONTACT ME

I COULD TELL THAT ONE
WAS NEARBY WELL BEFORE
ACTUAL CONTACT WAS MADE,
BUT I DON'T GO AROUND
SENSING INTERDIMENSIONAL
SPACE WHALES OVER MY
SHOULDER ALL THE TIME.

IF I COULD JUST PASSIVELY SENSE
THEM DUE TO PROXIMITY, I SHOULD
HAVE SENSED MORE OF THEM BY NOW

EVEN THAT DOESN'T PROVE I
CAN'T SEE THEM WITHOUT THEIR
COOPERATION, OR THAT I COULDN'T
SEE SOMEONE'S DEFAULT FORM
THROUGH AN ENCHANTMENT IF I
ADJUSTED MY EYES JUST RIGHT

THE COMPLICATION WITH TESTING THAT
IS THE ETHICAL DILEMMA THAT SEE'ING
THROUGH ELLIOT'S SHIRT PRESENTED.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT ALL MY
EYES MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE WHEN
POWERED UP, AND FOR ALL I KNOW
THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO MORE
THAN SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY

I WAS CARELESS! WE'RE
DEALING WITH MAGIC!

FOR ALL I KNOW,
I COULD HAVE
EYE LASERS!

I NEED TO DO A LOT
OF TESTING WITHOUT
LOOKING AT PEOPLE!

RIGHT! TIME TO
FIGURE OUT THE BEST
WAY TO DO THAT!

FIRST, I SHOULD...

FIRST, I SHOULD
GET A HEALTHY
NIGHT'S SLEEP

AND... LATER, I CAN WORK ON A
HEALTHY SCHEDULE FOR WHEN I
CAN DO SCIENCE STUFF?

YEAH.

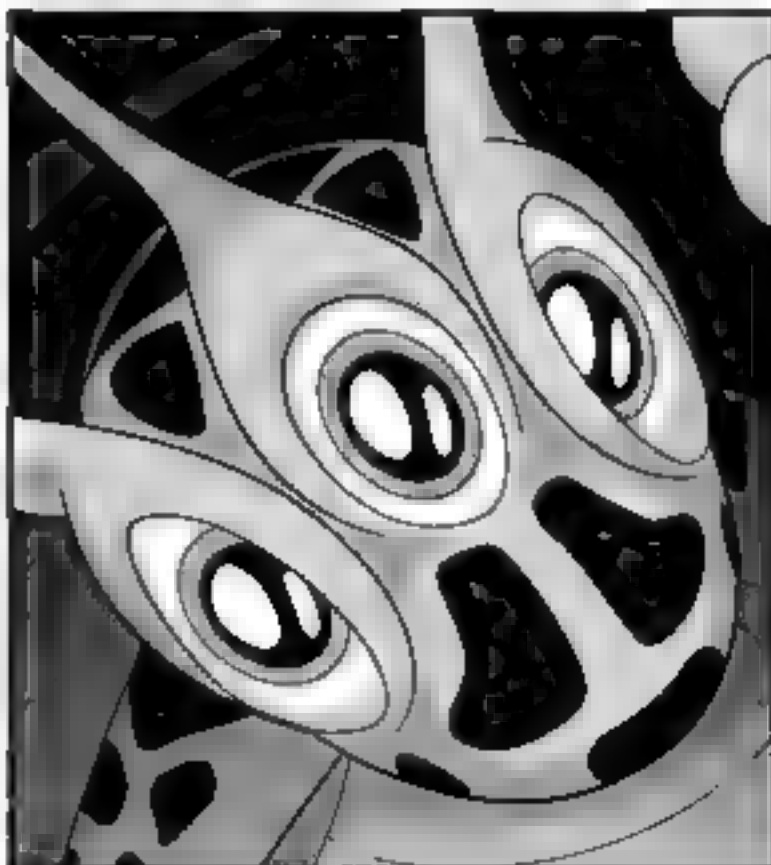
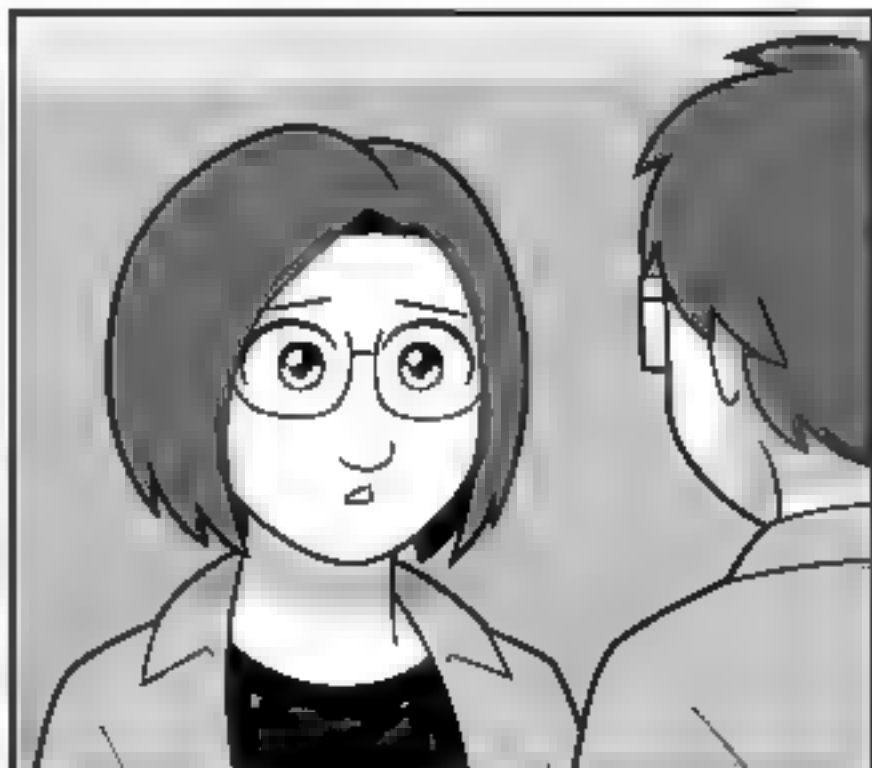
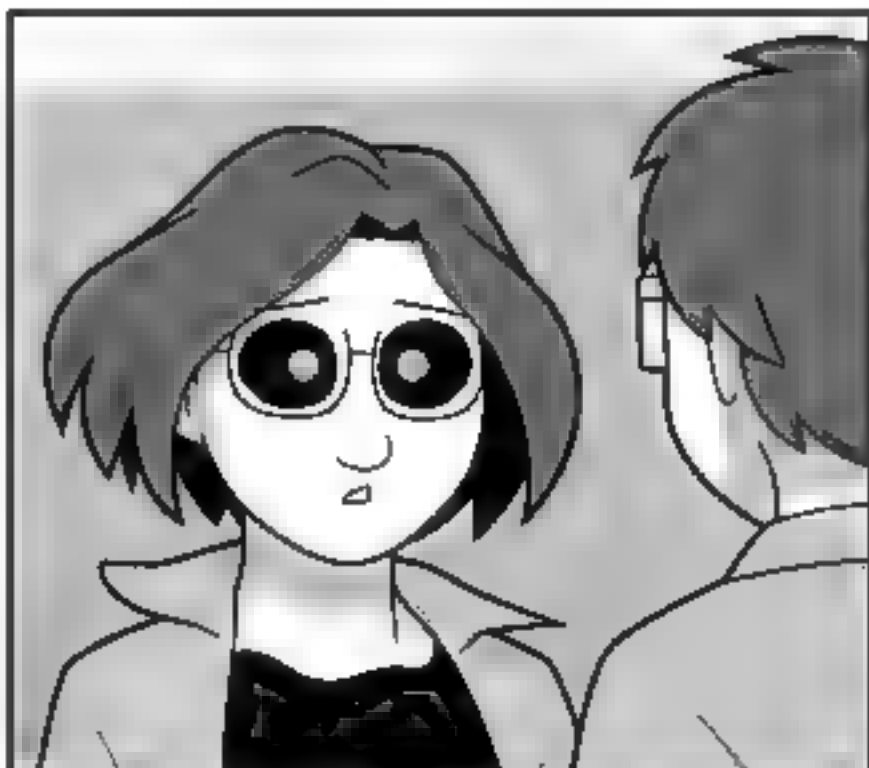
Tedd spent the
next two hours
in bed thinking
about how to
structure a
healthy schedule
before fall ng
as eep

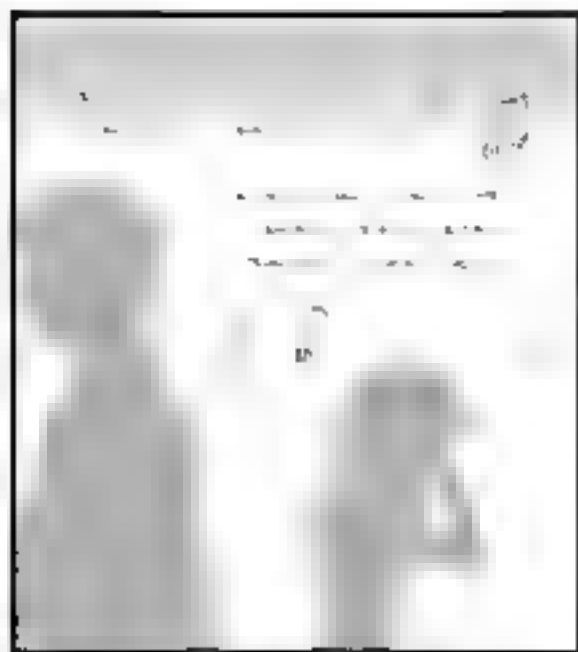
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Layers **THE END**

Story comics will return Weds, Nov 22





THE WAIT
T.M.'S OVER
AN HOUR

THE WORST
MOVE JUST
ABSOLUTE
TRASH.

DUDE!
WHAT ARE
YOU
DOING?

LET'S JUST
EAT SOME
WHERE ELSE

CROSS HERE!
THE LIGHT'LL TAKE
FOREVER!

BY THE TIME WE GET A
TABLE ELSEWHERE THIS
TABLE WILL BE FREE

I
LUKED
IT!

HONNNNK

OI! THE
LIGHT'S
GREEN!

HA
HA
HA

MY GOD
WHY?

LET'S JUST
GET DRIVE
THROUGH

WHATEVER
DORK I'LL JUST
GET THERE
BEFORE YOU

HONK

ACK! OKAY
OKAY I'LL WAIT
FOR THE LIGHT!

HOW
COULD
YOU BE
SO?

I'M NOT
JAYWALKING
AT NIGHT!

WE ALL
WANT THAT
BUT SERIOUSLY...

NO! I WANT
DRINKS! AND TO
HANG OUT!

WE ALL WANT THAT,
BUT SERIOUSLY...

THWUMP

HEY!

WATCH WHERE
YOU'RE ... MUH?
WHERE D THEY GO?

SOMEONE
TOTALLY JUST
BUMPED NTO
ME! WHERE
ARE THEY?!

I... I SAW
SOMEONE BUMP
INTO YOU, BUT
THEY... THEY JUST
VANISHED!

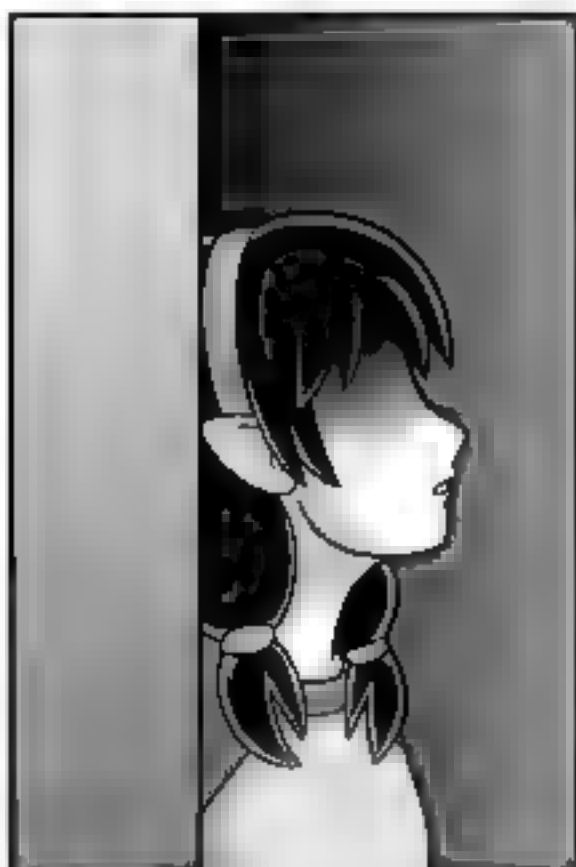
W-W-WAS
THAT A...
GH-GH-GH-
GHOST?!

MAYBE WE
SHOULDN'T
BE DRINKING
TONIGHT

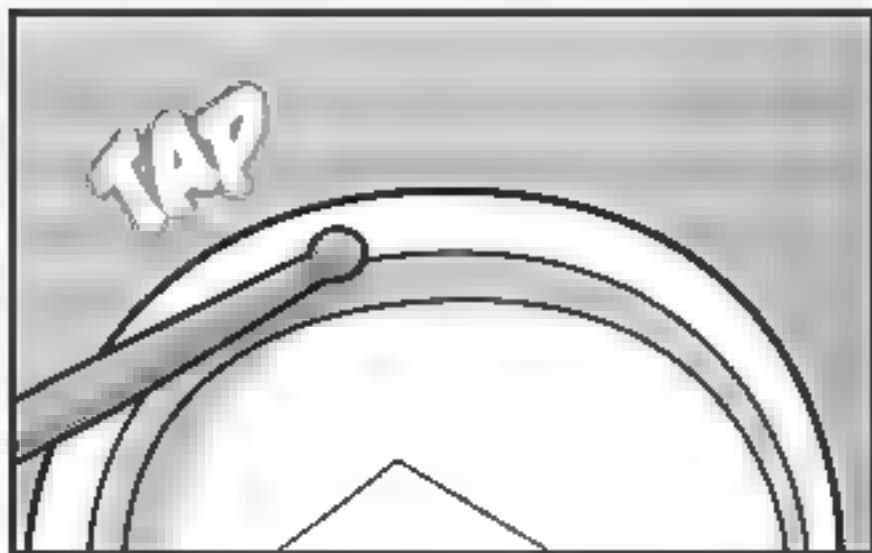
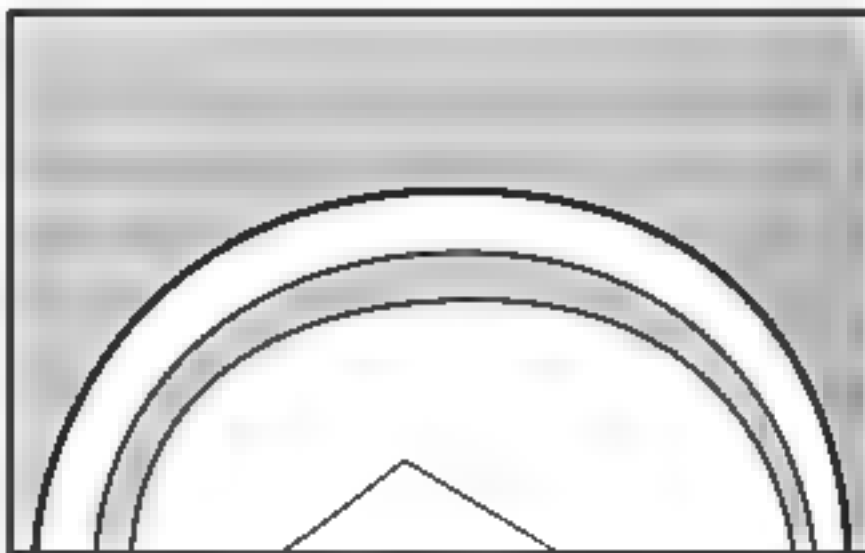


THE HECK WE
SHOULDN'T!

YEAH
I NEED
A DR NK
AFTER
THAT







Training Drumstick Wand

Does not store power for its user to use, and only has spells that cannot be powered by ambient magic energy.*

* The exception being a cheap spell that undoes any of the wand's transformations.

Forces its user to use their own magic power to cast its spells.

Created for Sarah by Tedd with the help of Kevin the training wand



THE MAIN THING I LIKE ABOUT *STAR TREK* IS THAT FOR ALL OF THE BAD THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN IT, IT'S ULTIMATELY OPTIMISTIC.

IT DEPICTS A FUTURE WHERE THE WORLD IS PEACEFUL AND ALL OF HUMANITY'S BASIC NEEDS ARE MET EVERY PERSON *HUMANITY AS A WHOLE*, HAVE REACHED A POINT OF SELF-ACTUALIZATION.

IT IS AN OPTIMISTIC SILLY MIX OF TECHNO-BABBLE, GOOFY MAKEUP SOCIAL COMMENTARY, FUN AND ADVENTURE, AND IT IS BEAUTIFUL.

UH... WOW

I...

THAT WAS NOT FOR THE REVIEW.

I'VE GOTTA BE HONEST, I WAS SO DISTRACTED WHILE WATCHING THIS MOVIE

THERE WAS MYSTERY, DANGER, PEOPLE ACTING WEIRD, AND... AN ALIEN INVASION? I THINK?

IT WAS ALIENS.

THANK YOU.

MEANWHILE, BECAUSE IT TOOK PLACE IN A HIGH SCHOOL I WAS MOSTLY THINKING ABOUT HOW WE'RE GRADUATING SOON!

AND HOW MUCH THAT'S THE BEST AND WORST THING!



GRADUATING IS "THE BEST AND THE WORST"?



RIGHT, SEE...

I DON'T ENJOY HIGH SCHOOL. I'LL BE HAPPY TO BE DONE WITH IT

BUT I'M USED TO IT, AND IT'S ENDING. I'LL NEVER BE A HIGH SCHOOLER AGAIN.



IT'S CHANGE, AND EVEN WHEN CHANGE IS GOOD IT CAN BE A LITTLE SAD. AND SCARY

HUH. YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT



SO TO ANYONE WATCHING THIS WHO'S FEELING SAD ABOUT GRADUATING, OR SOME OTHER GOOD CHANGE IN YOUR LIFE, AND YOU'RE NOT SURE WHY?

I, AND I'M SURE A LOT OF PEOPLE, KNOW THAT FEELING.



HEH.

WHAT?

NOTHING. I'M JUST SURPRISED I SAID ALL THAT

WAS THAT "NOT FOR THE REVIEW"?



YOU KIDDING? NO, ALL OF THAT STAYS IN.

IT'S JUST FUNNY HOW MUCH EASIER IT IS TO SAY SOME THINGS WHILE IN FRONT OF A CAMERA.

Late at night, a water tower in Moperville..

I'M
TAKING
TOO LONG
TO FIND
ROYALTY

SAOU
OUR
FUTURE
KING...

POTESTAS,
OUR FUTURE
KING'S
PROTECTOR...

BOTH
OF
THEM...

ALL OUR
PEOPLE..

ARE WAITING ON
ME TO USE DREAMS
TO FIND ROYALTY!

SAOU SAID WHAT I'M ABOUT
TO TRY WAS A BAD IDEA.

BUT HE'S
NOT KING
YET!

I'M GOING TO
TAP INTO THE FLOW
OF AMBIENT MAGIC
THAT SURROUNDS
THIS AREA..

AND CHECK
EVERY
SLEEPING PERSON
IN MOPERVILLE
FOR ROYALTY IN
ONE NIGHT!

Mist

Seyunolu Hybrid

Uryuom - Human - Unicorn
(He / Him)

ONE BAD IDEA LATER...

I'VE MADE A
HUGE MISTAKE

SO INSTEAD OF
"RIDING THE FLOW
OF AMBIENT MAGIC"
TO GRADUALLY CREATE
AND SEARCH MANY
GROUPS OF DREAMS
IN ONE NIGHT

...YOU CREATED AN ENORMOUS NUMBER
OF SHARED DREAMS ALL AT ONCE,
EACH OCCUPIED BY SEVERAL PEOPLE?

SOMEONE ELSE'S MAGIC
GOT MIXED IN WITH MINE
AND I COULDN'T WAKE UP
UNTIL THEY DID. BUT

YEAH...

AND THOUGH
YOU DID FIND ONE
PERSON OF ROYALTY
EVERYONE APPEARED
AS DISTORTED
SILHOETTES
TO YOU...

...AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO
THEY WERE. WHERE THEY WERE,
AND HAVE NO QUICK WAY OF
FINDING THEM AGAIN?

I THINK THEY WERE RELATIVELY
SHORT, AND HAD LONG HAIR,
BUT THAT MIGHT NOT BE HOW
THEY ACTUALLY LOOK EVEN IF
IT IS, THERE ARE A LOT OF
PEOPLE IN MOPERVILLE SO

YEAH...

YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO CHECKING
RICH AND POWERFUL PEOPLE IN THE
CITY WITH THE TALL BUILDINGS.

I AGREE.

YEEEEAAAAHHHHH...

And thus was Mist unknowingly responsible for what would be referred to by some as the "Do I Know You Anomaly"

Many shared dreams with people they knew, but just as many shared them with complete strangers.

While very few actually remembered their shared dreams, they did remember faces from those dreams, and some feelings they had about those they shared the dreams with

In some cases, details such as names, and other things, were recalled



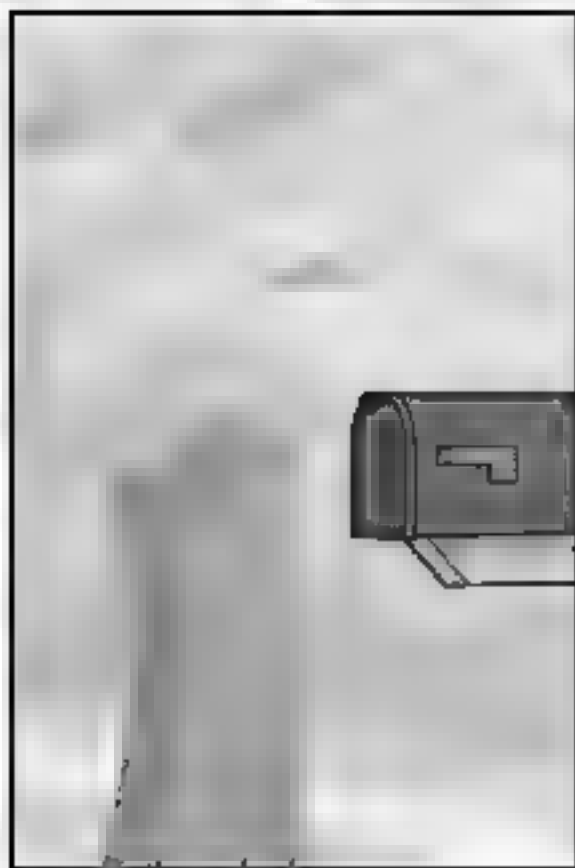
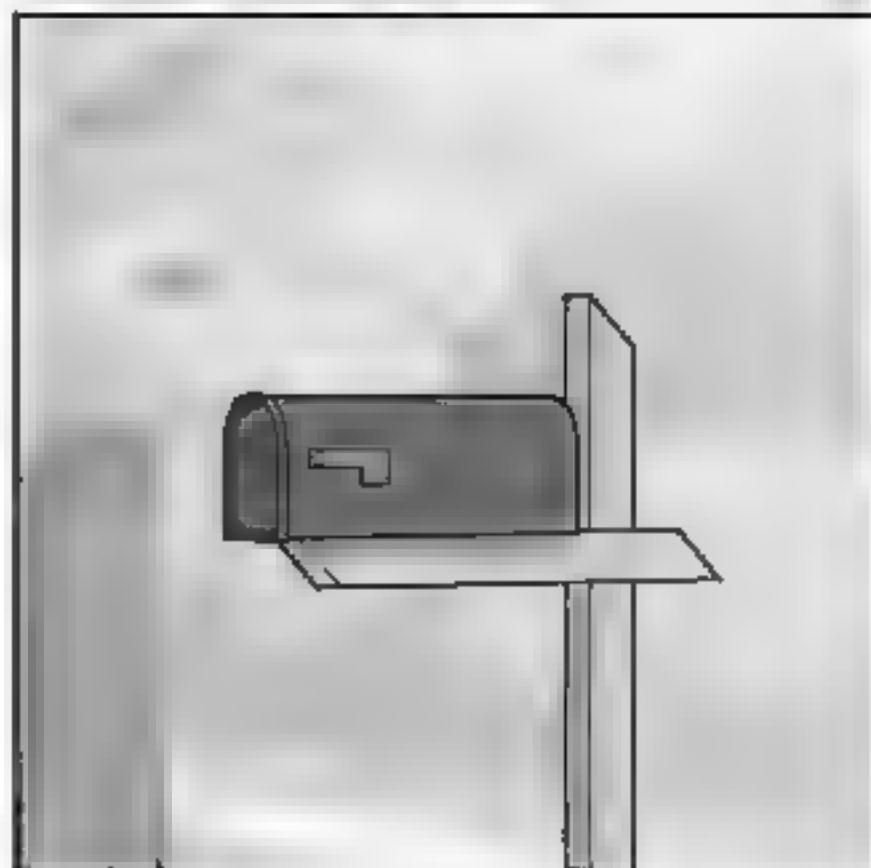
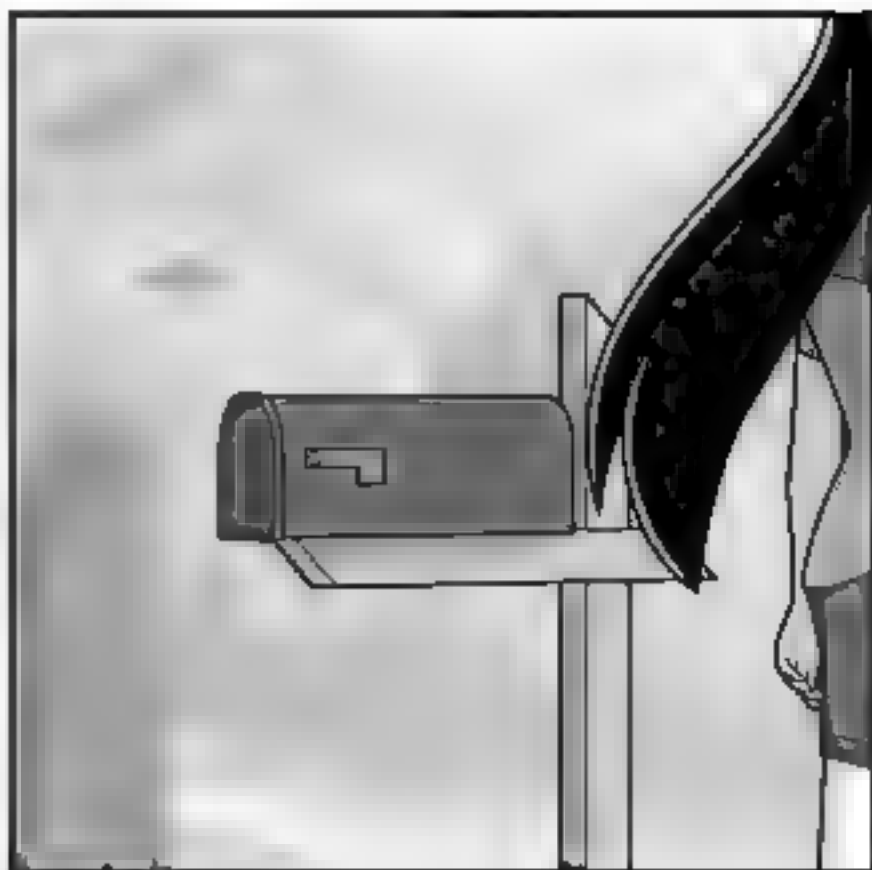
This resulted in complete strangers having moments of recognition, and asking variations of "do I know you," and "is your name Phil?"

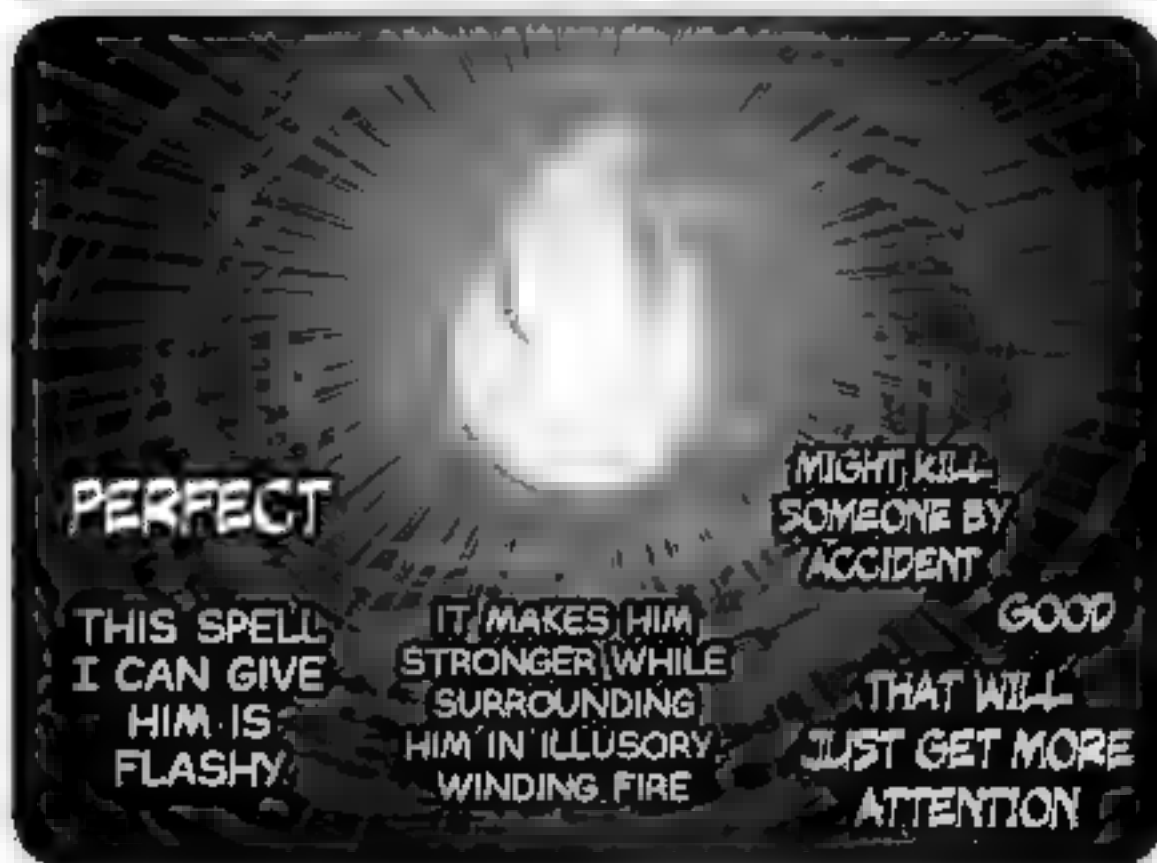
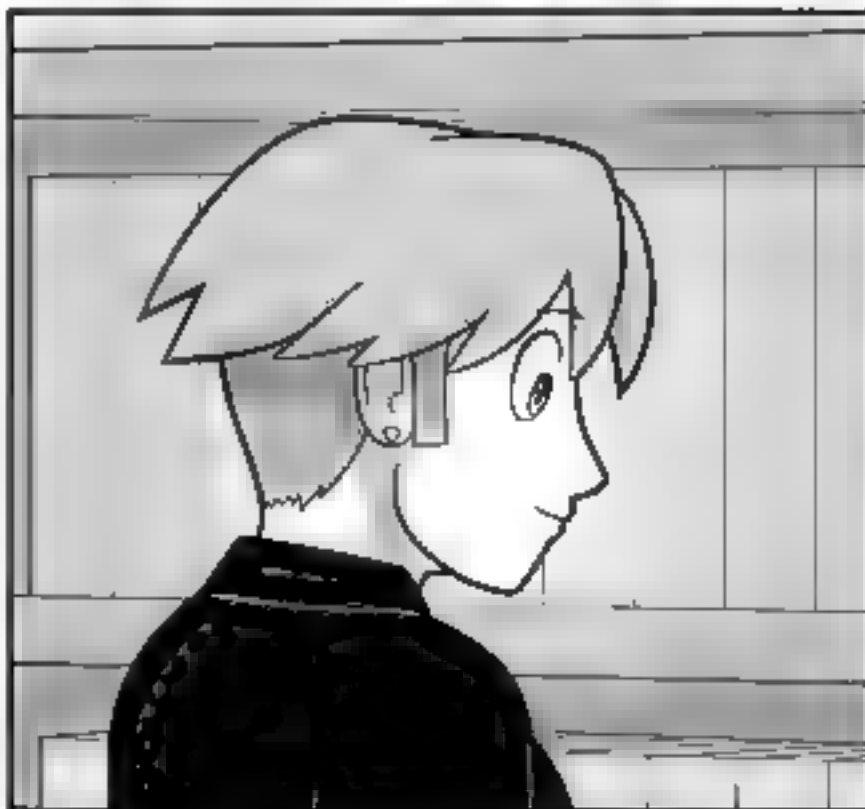


The scale of this was enough for people to notice something strange, and widespread, was going on, but no one had an explanation for it

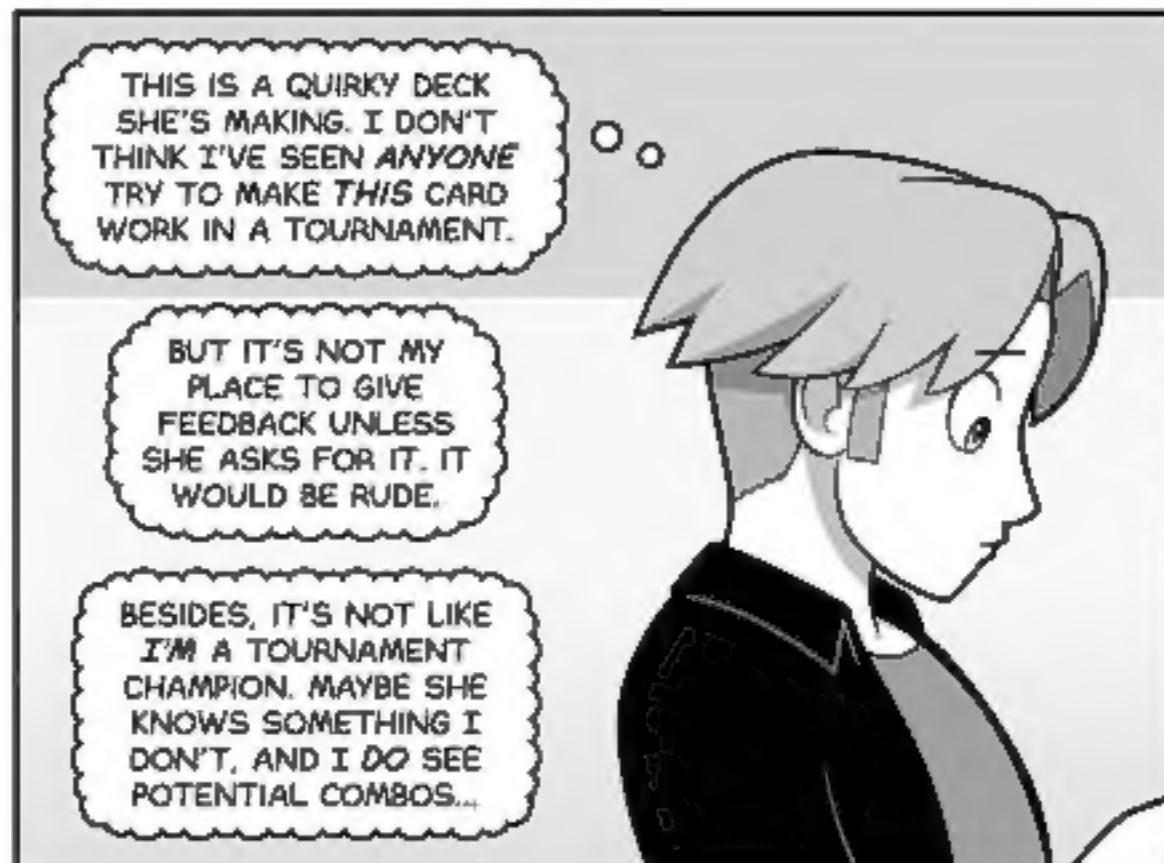
Memories of the dreams were too rare to become part of the narrative, and the only people who claimed to have answers...













HERE COMES THE AWKWARD PART. I'M NOT SURE HOW OLD SHE IS, BUT SHE SEEMS PRETTY YOUNG TO HAVE A LOT OF SPARE CASH?

WE HAVE EVERY CARD YOU WANT. HERE'S A RUNDOWN OF THE PRICES WITH THE TOTAL.



HM. OKAY.

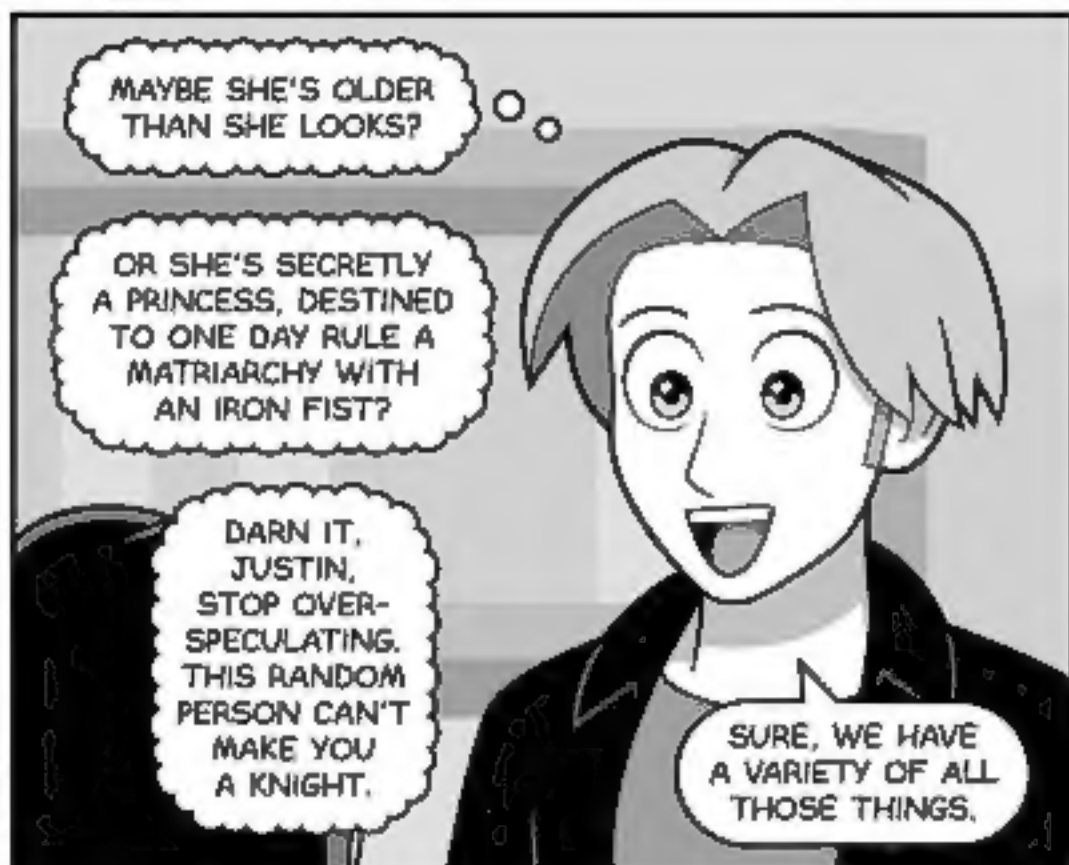
REALLY? NO STICKER SHOCK AT ALL?

IT'S NOWHERE NEAR THE MOST EXPENSIVE DECK OUT THERE...

...BUT IT STILL COSTS AS MUCH AS SOME NEW VIDEO GAMES.



I should also get card sleeves, a box, a life counter, and a play mat.



MAYBE SHE'S OLDER THAN SHE LOOKS?

OR SHE'S SECRETLY A PRINCESS, DESTINED TO ONE DAY RULE A MATRIARCHY WITH AN IRON FIST?

DARN IT, JUSTIN, STOP OVER-SPECULATING. THIS RANDOM PERSON CAN'T MAKE YOU A KNIGHT.

SURE, WE HAVE A VARIETY OF ALL THOSE THINGS.



DO YOU HAVE ANY PLAY MATS WITH... ELVES ON THEM?

AT LEAST A COUPLE DIFFERENT DESIGNS, YEAH.



I LIKE POINTY EARS.

POINTY EARS ARE COOL.

DEFINITELY A KID WITH A GENEROUS ALLOWANCE.

